



February 2009

Newsletter

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www.vccaahs.org

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* * * *

VCCAA Newsletter
P.O. Box 806
Camarillo, CA 93011-0806

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Greetings from the President

Happy Chinese New Year members and sponsors! This is the year of the Ox, 4707, which symbolizes the hard-working and down-to-earth characteristics. I want to wish all of you and your family members a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2009!

Our Chinese New Year event in Camarillo Constitution Park was a great success in spite of the threat of rain. About 300 people showed up to the event. Our program included Lion Dance, Kung Fu demonstration, Chinese classical dances and Chinese classical instrument music ensemble. There were many Chinese souvenirs for sale as well as our calligraphy booth demonstration and crafts tables for kids. A big thank you goes out to all of the board members and volunteers that worked so hard to make this event a great success! It was a great outreach to the community.

Our next event is the Easter Egg Hunt on April 11, 2009 at the Ling Ranch. We look forward to you and your family members joining us.

The VCCAA is always looking to welcome new members to join our big family.

新年快乐！恭喜发财！

Juliet Sun
President 2008-2009



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; e-mail to me at brt2eyes@yahoo.com.

Lloyd Ho
Acting Editor

Christmas Party

by Lee-May Little

Christmas time is a joyful and merry time of the year. To celebrate, the VCCAA held its annual Christmas Party at Camarillo Heights Elementary School on Sat., Dec. 13. Over 200 members attended.

The event included a pot luck dinner. With Louise Dilger's new serving table set-up, the line moved faster. Thank you, Louise.

The Chinese Language School students sang a Jingle Bell song and recited a lovely poem. Then the Thousand Oaks Chinese Folk Ensemble performed on traditional Chinese instruments, which produced a very special sound. Some numbers included a vocal chorus which really lifted

up everyone's holiday spirits. That was followed by several dances by Yu-Ling Lu's Chinese Classical Dance Troupe, which were very graceful and as always so beautiful and colorful. We are lucky to have them.

Of course the party's highlight was Santa Claus' surprise visit, bringing gifts for all good boys and girls.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make this event successful.

Please check out the many pictures posted on our website – www.vccaa.org/pictures/xmas08.

Chinese New Year Event

by Juliet Sun

Rain, rain, go away and allow the Chinese New Year Celebration to have its day. That was a wish that was made and of course, a wish that was granted! Even though it did rain for a short time, the weather cleared and the rain disappeared. The Chinese New Year event proceeded under the smiling sky.

The program began with an explanation of the celebration and activities that occur during Chinese New Year, followed by the Lion Dance and Kung Fu demonstration performed by the Camarillo Kung Fu Club. The lovely lions won many hearts of the audience. Yu-Ling Lu's Classical Dance Troupe performed six beautiful elegantly choreographed dances. During intermission of

the dancing, Thousand Oaks Chinese Folk Ensemble performed a most enjoyable Chinese classical music. In addition to the above programs, there were many Chinese souvenirs for sale, Chinese calligraphy demonstration by Richard Lu and crafts-making lessons for kids by the Chinese School teachers. Around 300 people attended this event in spite of the threat of rain.

Many thanks go out to the board members, youth group, Chinese school teachers, performers and all the other volunteers that worked so hard to make this event a great success! This could not have been accomplished without you.

A Look at an Upcoming Event

Easter Egg Hunt

When: **Saturday, April 11, 2009, 12:30 PM**

Where: **Ling Ranch
Somis**

Contact: **Lesley Ling Sule, (805) 445-9425**

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is on! Join us at the Ling Ranch for food, games and the hunt. For each child participating, please bring an Easter basket and two dozen filled Easter eggs. We will be providing a simple lunch for



all and games for the kids. We look forward to seeing all of you then!

Chinese Language School

by Lee-May Little, Principal

Our Chinese Language School Fall Semester is nearing an end. So far, so good. Everything went smoothly with our relocation to the Pleasant Valley Instructional Center (2222 Ventura Blvd, Camarillo).

The Spring Semester will begin Fri., February 6th.

I should take this opportunity to introduce our esteem roster of teachers:

- Conversational – Shuqin Zhao (赵淑琴 老师)
- Grade 5 / Credit Class – Irene Sy (张翠玉 老师)
- Grade 3 – Nancy Yu (余敏鸿 老师)
- Grade 2 – Wei Hong Li (李蔚虹 老师)
- Grade 1 – Ping Ping Shu (舒平平 老师)
- Kindergarten 2 – Huijie Guo (郭慧洁 老师)
- Kindergarten 1 – Hsia Lin Hsu (许夏龄 老师)



Festival. Your presentation was very meaningful and educational. Thank you very much for the outstanding job. Keep up the good work.

On May 1st we will hold our annual Speech Contest. I forgot to give acknowledge the wonderful job our credit class did on their skit for the VCCAA Mooncake

Scholarships

by Vivian Goo

The deadline for the VCCAA scholarships has been extended. All applications for the VCCAA scholarships must be postmarked on or before March 30, 2009. Mail applications to:

VCCAA Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 806
Camarillo, CA. 93011-0806

All children of the VCCAA members are encouraged to apply. Applications are available on the VCCAA web-site at www.vccaa.org.

Membership

by Lesley Ling Sule

Since the annual 2008-2009 Directory was published, there are additional members that are to be added. Please make pen and pencil entries to the directory for the member listed.

<p>Ashley, Michael Huijie Guo Amanda 1979 Del Ciervo Pl. Camarillo, CA 93012 (H): (805) 388-8863</p>	<p>Cheng, Yuan Jing Huang Angelina 245 Camino Toluca Camarillo, CA 93010 (C): (917) 376-2074 jinghuangj@gmail.com</p>	<p>Fang, Jong Silvia Wong, Grace, Melody 1930 Mirasol Ln Oxnard, CA 93036 (H): (805) 981-0088 (W): (805) 322-2888 (C): (805) 200-8787 Swan920@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Leo, Ricky Grace Jennifer 3090 Morningside Dr Thousand Oaks, CA 91362 Email: rickyandgrace@att.net (H): (805) 492-4186</p>
<p>Li, J. Yuhang Weider Wu, Evelyn, Terrence 2092 Ribera Dr. Oxnard, CA 93030 (H): (805) 981-9289 yuhuangli@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Parks, Kevin Heather, Emily 215 E. Summer #9 Ojai, CA 93023 (H): (805) 646-4650 kevinparks@sbcglobal.com</p>	<p>Thomas, Randy P.O. Box 5235 Camarillo, CA 93012 (H): (805) 322-7194</p>	

Historical Society News

by Linda Bentz

A Very Special Visit from China

The Historical Society is happy to announce that a special visitor is coming to Ventura County on Tue., February 3rd. Ms. Selia Tan lives in Hoiping and she is the program manager for the Public Memory Project, sponsored by the China National Archives. The project is

dedicated to collecting and preserving valuable historical records that were lost during the Cultural Revolution and modern development. So far, 140,000 letters, dated between 1900-1940, from overseas to China have been collected.

The Government promotes the Public Memory Project

and they plan to set up a center for the historical materials. They are establishing an archive of letters, sent and received, for scholars and researchers from all over the world to use. The Research Centre for Overseas Chinese and Their Ancestral Hometowns at Wuyi University is involved in this venture. Ms. Tan is traveling to the United States to gather letters, diaries, and photographs from Chinese families and archives in California.

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California introduced the VCCAHS to Ms. Tan. Members of CHSSC met her in 2003, while she was living in California and working as a visiting scholar at Azusa Pacific University. Upon her return to Guangdong, we requested her assistance in our ongoing research for the upcoming book, *Hidden Voice: One Hundreds Years of Chinese History in Ventura*

County. We asked Selia to visit the village of George Soo Hoo. Selia visited the village, and graciously provided us with pictures and oral histories from members of George's family. Selia is planning to visit additional Soo Hoo and Jue villages when she returns to Guangdong. We are deeply grateful for the information she has contributed to the forthcoming book.

On February 3rd, we will welcome Ms. Selia Tan as a valued historian and friend to the Historical Society. We are grateful for the collaborative relationship with the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. Together we strive to collect information and disseminate the story of the early Chinese pioneers who made California their home.

A Glimpse on the History of China

The Zhou Period 周

The last Shang ruler, a despot according to standard Chinese accounts, was overthrown by a chieftain of a frontier tribe called Zhou (周), which had settled in the Wei (渭) Valley in modern Shaanxi (陝西) Province. The Zhou dynasty had its capital at Hao (鎬), near the city of Xi'an (西安), or Chang'an (長安), as it was known in its heyday in the imperial period. Sharing the language and culture of the Shang, the early Zhou rulers, through conquest and colonization, gradually sinicized, that is, extended Shang culture through much of China Proper north of the Chang Jiang (長江 or Yangtze River). The Zhou dynasty lasted longer than any other, from 1027 to 221 B.C. It was philosophers of this period who first enunciated the doctrine of the "mandate of heaven" (tianming or 天命), the notion that the ruler (the "son of heaven" or 天子) governed by divine right but that his dethronement would prove that he had lost the mandate. The doctrine explained and justified the demise of the two earlier dynasties and at the same time supported the legitimacy of present and future rulers.

The term feudal has often been applied to the Zhou period because the Zhou's early decentralized rule invites comparison with medieval rule in Europe. At most,

however, the early Zhou system was proto-feudal (封建制度), being a more sophisticated version of earlier tribal organization, in which effective control depended more on familial ties than on feudal legal bonds. Whatever feudal elements there may have been decreased as time went on. The Zhou amalgam of city-states became progressively centralized and established increasingly impersonal political and economic institutions. These developments, which probably occurred in the latter Zhou period, were manifested in greater central control over local governments and a more routinized agricultural taxation.

In 771 B.C. the Zhou court was sacked, and its king was killed by invading barbarians who were allied with rebel lords. The capital was moved eastward to Luoyang (洛陽) in present-day Henan (河南) Province. Because of this shift, historians divide the Zhou era into Western Zhou (1027-771 B.C.) and Eastern Zhou (770-221 B.C.). With the royal line broken, the power of the Zhou court gradually diminished; the fragmentation of the kingdom accelerated. Eastern Zhou divides into two subperiods. The first, from 770 to 476 B.C., is called the Spring and Autumn Period (春秋時代), after a famous historical chronicle of the time; the second is known as the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C. 戰國時代).

Source: www-chaos.umd.edu

Quotable Quotes

Every man has three characters — that which he exhibits, that which he has, and that which he thinks he has.

Alphonse Karr

Always go to other people's funerals, otherwise they won't come to yours.

Yogi Berra

The difference between failure and success is doing a thing nearly right and doing a thing exactly right.

Edward Simmons

Don't bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself.

William Faulkner

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Ventura County
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Welcomes new dancers!



All classes are currently open:

Monday	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Intermediate - Group A
Wednesday	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Beginner
Wednesday	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Intermediate - Group B
Saturday	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Advanced

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

Class location: 2031 Spyglass Trail West, Oxnard 93036

For more information, please contact Mrs. Yu-Ling Lu, (805) 983-6082 or (805) 990-3866

Upcoming Events

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
Easter Egg Hunt	April 11, 2009 Saturday, 12:30 PM	Ling Ranch Somis	Lesley Ling Sule (805) 445-9425
Memorial Day Picnic	May 25, 2009 Monday, 11:00 AM	Pleasant Valley Park Temple Ave. and Ponderosa Rd., Camarillo	Leslie Jue – (805) 525-9562 George Ng – (805) 482-2054
Awards & Installation Luncheon	June 20, 2009 Saturday, 12:30 PM	City Buffet 1600 Ives Ave. Oxnard	Vivian Goo – (805) 482-6074



Year of the Ox
4707