



May 2010

## Newsletter

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Lena Ho

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

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## Greetings from the President

A wonderful and exciting Chinese New Year Celebration event was held in Camarillo Constitution Park on a sunny Sat. afternoon, Feb. 13, 2010. Over 500 attendees, including association members, families, friends, and the public, greeted the new year, *Year of the Tiger, 4708*. Many thanks to Dr. Zeak Simmons, event chairperson, and to all those who lent a helping hand to make this event an outstanding success.

The Easter Egg Hunt was enjoyed by all, especially the children, at the Ling Ranch in Somis on Sat., Apr. 3. There were games, a light lunch, and eggs-galore! Thanks goes to Lesley Ling Sule, chairperson, Youth Group, and parents.

Our next event is the Memorial Day Picnic on Mon., May 31. Memorial Day is a federal holiday observed each year to commemorate American servicemen and women who died in battle. It was established by General John Logan, head of the organization Grand Army of the Republic. Gen. Logan designated Memorial Day, then called Decoration Day, for decorating and caring for the graves of fallen Civil War soldiers.

In General Order No. 11, Gen. Logan wrote: *"The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion (Civil War), and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit."*

Following World War I, the Memorial Day commemoration was expanded to honor American servicemen in all branches of the military, killed in any war or battle. The public has expanded the meaning of Memorial Day to include servicemen not killed in battle and any and all loved ones who has passed on.

At the Memorial Day Picnic be sure to renew your membership with the application enclosed in this newsletter plus a personal check made out to the VCCAA, or cash. Most important bring your ballot to vote for next year's officers and board of directors.

To close out the year, the Awards and Installation Luncheon will be held at City Buffet in June. Please join us.

Lloyd Ho  
President 2009-2010



## 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.

Lena Ho  
Editor

## Chinese New Year

by Zeak Simmons, PhD

**Sunshine, blue sky, smiles all around.**

On February 13, 2010 – the Year of the Tiger (4708), our 4th year Chinese New Year celebration at Constitution Park in Camarillo was held. Due to the outstanding work of our Chinese New Year committee, there were more than 500 people that attended. The committee members were Irene Sy, Lee May Little and Zeak Simmons. The committee met several times to formulate the program.

It started with the Lion Dance and Kung Fu demonstration by Camarillo Kung Fu Club. Yu-Ling Lu's Dance Troop performed beautiful Chinese classical dances, one of which won the platinum prize in the Southern California Dance Competition. Thousand Oaks Chinese Classical Musical Ensemble gave the audience a high quality musical selection, including an instrumental and singing performance. In addition to these traditional

activities, this year we had the honor to have Mr. Jason Jiang and his assistant to present a terrific acrobatic show. Mr. Jiang has previously performed on the Jay Leno television show. In spite of the windy conditions, he still gave us an impeccable performance. Towards the end of the show, the Chinese school kids sang the New Year's songs together with the audience. A few students from the Chinese class of Las Colinas School also joined the singing on the stage. Besides the performances on stage, there were various booths that drew people's attention: the arts and crafts, souvenirs, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese antiques display, etc.

Many thanks to the board members, youth group members, Chinese school teachers, performers and all the other volunteers that worked so hard to make this event a great success!

## Easter Egg Hunt

by Lesley Ling Sule

It was a beautiful Easter Saturday afternoon at the Ling Ranch in Somis! More than 50 kids and parents came together for a beautiful day full of fun games, food and, of course, a fantastic Egg Hunt. The Youth Group, lead by Pres. Hung Su, worked hard coordinating the games of the day, like the sack race and the egg toss, etc. Even the pinata was a big hit (ba dum bum!).

Dr. Hillary and Mrs. Stella Ling showcased their birds

for all the kids to see and Les and Suzie Jue put together a wonderful BBQ feast, as usual.

Everyone worked so hard and it showed as the kids walked off with their Easter baskets full of loot and smiles to show it!

A huge thank you to everyone for your help and hard work. We'll see you again next year!

## A Look at Upcoming Events

### Memorial Day Picnic

When: **Monday, May 31, 2010, 11:00 AM**

Where: **Pleasant Valley Park  
Temple Ave. & Ponderosa Rd.  
Camarillo**

Cost: **\$8 Adults, \$5 Children 10 yrs & under**

Contact: **Leslie Jue – (805) 525-9562  
George Ng – (805) 482-2054**

In honor of the men and women who gave their lives for their country, in 1966, the federal government, under the direction of President Lyndon Johnson, declared Waterloo, N.Y., the official birthplace of Memorial Day. They chose Waterloo – which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866 – because the town had made Memorial Day an annual, community-wide event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

Then in 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May.



Members, families, and friends join us today for our annual Memorial Day Picnic.

Be sure to promptly renew your membership. Bring your renewal application with a check only for the renewal, or cash, and filled-out ballot for officers and board of directors to the picnic.

Write a second check only for the picnic, or cash.

See you there!

## Awards & Installation Luncheon

When: **Saturday, June 26, 2010, 12:30 PM**

Where: **City Buffet  
1600 Ives Ave., Oxnard  
(805) 483-0856**

Contact: **Lloyd Ho, (805) 498-5537**

All Officers and Directors, Program Chairs, Event Chairs and Sponsors will be guests of the Association. Members of the association and their guests are encouraged to attend at \$10/person.

We appreciate all the hard work of our officers, directors, program and event chairs throughout the year. We also would like to thank all our sponsors. Because of their

*Special thanks and appreciation to those that supported the association this past year*

support of our association, we were able to have our events for all our members to enjoy.

We would like to encourage our members to take an active role in helping to make our club a success.

Please call (805) 498-5537 if you are planning to attend the installation luncheon.

## Chinese Language School

by Lee-May Little, Principal

We can't believe that there are only six weeks until the end of the semester. I am grateful to have had a wonderful and smooth year. Thank you so much to our dedicated teachers and hard working students.

On Fri., May 7, the Chinese school will hold its annual speech and poem recitation program. Every student is working hard to prepare for their participation.

Congratulations to all of our graduating students and best wishes for your future endeavors.

We are very proud to have been selected as a Star Talk 2010 foreign language program school site for the third consecutive year. Classes will be offered at no cost to students from 8th to 12th grade. Five high school foreign

language credits will be awarded upon completion of each session. Classes will begin in mid-June. If you are interested, please e-mail Credit Class Instructor, Ms. Irene Sy, at micomputer@aol.com.

Our teacher, Ms. Zhao, is offering after school tutoring and summer classes at her home in Camarillo.

Mrs. Zhao is also involved with Leez International Culture Exchange in the Ventura County area. She is seeking host families, who will receive payment for their help. If you would like to open your home to students from China, please contact Shuqin Zhao at (805) 338-1013 or e-mail at sqzhao04@yahoo.com.

We wish everyone a great and safe summer.

## Scholarships

by Vivian Goo

The VCCAA received many applications for the 2010 scholarships. The applicants were not only scholars, but many were very active in their extra curricular participation

in music, sports, academic societies and community services. Many of the applicants also received a multitude of academic honors both at the local and national levels.

### Recipients of the VCCAA scholarships

Erik Jue  
Moorpark High School  
William Soo Hoo Memorial  
Scholarship – \$750

Lauryl Nakagawa  
Buena High School  
Tony Chen Scholarship – \$750

Alexander Nguyen  
Adolfo Camarillo High School  
VCCAA Clarice Dong Scholarship –  
\$500

Jingwei Zhou  
Adolfo Camarillo High School  
VCCAA Scholarship – \$500

Hung Su  
Channel Islands High School  
VCCAA Youth Group Service  
Scholarship – \$500

Congratulations to all our scholarship recipients. We will be inviting them as our guest at our annual Memorial Day Picnic at which time they will be recognized for their accomplishments.

## Youth Group

by Hung Su, President

Greetings everyone! First, I want to thank everyone that has been part of this youth group. It has been an interesting journey spending time with everyone and getting to know one other.

Some of the events we have participated in are: The Christmas Party, Chinese New Year Celebration, and Easter Egg Hunt. The youth group did an amazing job in helping set up the Christmas Party with all the games. In the Easter Egg Hunt, we prepared couple games, a piñata

contest, and Easter egg hunt. I believe the kids had a lot of fun with our games we set up. Now, the youth group also stays back and clean up all the trash.

Some hardworking members of the youth group that I would like to point out: Jooyong, Leo, and Kenny. All in all, everyone has done a great job in helping. To recap the year, I would say it went by fast and I personally have enjoyed helping the VCCAA.

## Membership

It's that time of year again! Time to renew your membership for another great year. Your membership application form is enclosed with this newsletter. Be sure to verify your family information is correct, if it is not correct, line out the incorrect data and write in the correct information.

Also enclosed is the annual ballot for officers and board of directors. Fill it out and bring it to the Memorial Day Picnic or mail to: P.O. Box 806, Camarillo, CA 93011-0806. Every ballot counts.

Please welcome the following new member(s).

Terri Zhang  
Vince Capobianco, Thomas Chen  
P.O. Box 2663  
Camarillo, CA 93011-2663  
Email: mplosangeles@yahoo.com  
Tel. (805) 419-4293

For membership information or suggestions, please send an email to Lloyd Ho at [brt2eyes@yahoo.com](mailto:brt2eyes@yahoo.com).

## Historical Society News

by Will Gow

Presented here is a preview of the forthcoming book: *Hidden Voices: 100 Years of Chinese History in Ventura County – 1870-1970*.

### Chinese Exclusion 1882-1943

**Soo Hoo How**, the heavyset cook for Senator Bard, received his identification certificate on March 6, 1894. The laundryman Yee Kee Chung received his three days later as did Gin Hoo who registered on March 9, 1894. In Ventura, Chinese were forced to apply at the County Tax office for certificates. There they were told to submit a detailed description of themselves verified by a white witness along with two identifying photographs all before May 5 of that year or face deportation.

Across southern California and around the country, Chinese Americans applied for the new identification certificates reluctantly. For most, the certificates were a reminder of the growing xenophobia that had spread across the West Coast over the prior two decades. The new identification requirements had their roots in the Geary

Act, which had passed through Congress two years earlier. The act, which renewed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 for ten years, required for the first time all Chinese living in the United States be issued photo identification certificates authenticating their presence in the country. Those who resisted the law faced arrest and deportation.

The Geary Act was only one example of the xenophobia that gripped the nation in the later part of the 19th century. Exacerbated by the economic panic of 1873, anti-Chinese sentiments swept California changing the daily lives of Chinese in communities large and small. From Ventura to

San Francisco, anti-immigrant forces persistently scapegoated the Chinese for many of the state's problems, pushing through a phalanx of local, state, and national legislation that targeted Chinese immigrants. Violence against Chinese was endemic: sometimes targeting individuals and other times

As the national economy faltered following the panic of 1873, many white workers turned their animosity toward the Chinese. As a large, visible, minority, the Chinese were an easy scapegoat.

Chinese immigrants. Violence against Chinese was endemic: sometimes targeting individuals and other times

targeting whole communities. The last few decades of the 19th century were a difficult time to be a Chinese immigrant in California.

### The Exclusion Era

In the twenty or so years preceding the issuance of identification certificates, the Chinese had become a significant, contributing part of the California economy. By 1870, there were nearly 50,000 Chinese living in the state, accounting for around 8% of the population. Amongst the laboring classes, the proportion of Chinese was even higher. Because nearly all the Chinese were young men of working age, Chinese laborers made up a quarter of those gainfully employed in 1870. With the transcontinental railroad now complete, many Chinese began to move into the state's agricultural districts as more and more Chinese laborers turned toward farm labor. San Francisco, long the heart of Chinese America, also saw an increase, as the percentage of the city's population that was Chinese rose to more than 25%. Even as the Chinese came to make up a significant proportion of the state's laborers, California found itself in the grips of a national economic depression.

As the national economy faltered following the panic of 1873, many white workers turned their animosity toward the Chinese. As a large, visible, minority, the Chinese were an easy scapegoat. From the sandlots of San Francisco, Denis Kearny and his Workingman's Party declared, "The Chinese Must Go!" In San Francisco, where the Workingmen were strongest, the city passed or began to enforce a series of pieces of anti-Chinese legislation. In 1873, police in the city began to selectively enforce the Cubic Air Ordinance against residents of Chinatown. The law required each adult living in the city have at least 500

cubic feet of living space. Mass arrests of Chinese in the city followed. That same year the city passed the Queue Ordinance which allowed prison wardens to cut off the long braids of Chinese prisoners.

Local laws and ordinances like these were only the beginning. By 1879, the anti-Chinese forces held sway over much of the state's political establishment. A constitutional convention held that year to rewrite California's Constitution, bore the imprint of the anti-Chinese crowd. Though later overturned by the courts, Article XIX of the new constitution made it illegal for any corporation operating in the state to hire a Chinese worker. This wave of animosity soon reached Washington D.C. where in 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act. This act, the first to bar immigration based solely on national origin, prohibited all Chinese laborers from entering the United States, while limiting entry of other Chinese to a select few including certified merchants, students, travelers, and diplomats.

The Chinese Exclusion Acts, state and local laws and were strengthened over time. Chinese were excluded from immigrating until the repeal of the Exclusion Acts in 1943. With the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the alliance of China and the United States during World War II, attitudes toward Chinese in America started to change. Finally the day of inclusion arrived and Chinese settlers were no longer prohibited from immigrating to the United States, thus ending 62 years of exclusion. Life in the United States for the Chinese, who had suffered in the hands of the government, would experience dramatic change as they began to be accepted as vital members of American society.

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## Quotable Quotes

You can observe a lot by just watching. *Yogi Berra (1925-) Major League Baseball Player & Manager*

Love is friendship that has caught fire. It is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. It is loyalty through good and bad times. It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses. *Ann Landers (1918-2002); Advice Columnist*

Believe in your dreams and they may come true; believe in yourself and they will come true. *Author Unknown*

At the end of your life, you will never regret not having passed one more test, not winning one more verdict, or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a friend, a child, or a parent. *Barbara Bush (1952-); Wife of the 41st President of the United States*

The toughest form of mountain climbing is getting out of a rut. *Author Unknown*

Friends are helpful not only because they will listen to us, but because they will laugh at us; Through them we learn a little objectivity, a little modesty, a little courtesy; We learn the rules of life and become better players of the game. *Will Durant (1885-1981); Writer and Historian*

All my life I've wanted to be somebody; I realize now that I should have been more specific. *Lily Tomlin (1936-) American Actress, Comedian, Writer and Producer*

What I've experienced is that I can't know the future. I can't know if anything that I do will change what happens tomorrow. I can't know with certainty, but what I do know is if I do nothing, nothing will change. *James Orbinski (1960-); Former President of Doctors Without Borders*

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Ventura County  
 Chinese American Association  
 Dance Troupe

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
Memorial Day Picnic	May 31, 2010 Monday, 11:00 AM	Pleasant Valley Park Temple Ave. & Ponderosa Rd. Camarillo	Leslie Jue George Ng
Awards & Installation Luncheon	June 26, 2010 Saturday, 12:30 PM	City Buffet 1600 Ives Ave. Oxnard	Lloyd Ho Vivian Goo



Year of the Tiger  
4708