



November 2011

## Newsletter

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### Web Sites

VCCAA  
[www.vccaa.org](http://www.vccaa.org)  
Language School  
<https://vccls.wikispaces.com>  
Historical Society  
[www.vccahs.org](http://www.vccahs.org)

### Newsletter Editor

Lena Ho

\* \* \* \*

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

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### Greetings from the President

The first event of the fiscal year, Mid-Autumn Festival, was held in mid-Sept. The evening's program was emceed by David Li, Youth Group President and assisted by Kim Wang, Youth Group Vice Pres. Many of our members with their families and friends enjoyed the delicious food and watched performances by talented Chinese classical dancers and students from our Chinese Language School.



The Halloween Party event was attended by many of our young association members along with their families. Members were treated to games and food. Many of the children and a coterie of adults donned elaborate costumes in the true spirit of Halloween. It was a wonderful family event.

Recent screening of "Autumn Gem" (Qiu Jin) at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks was well attended by association members and the public at-large. After the screening there was an energetic question and answer interchange with Rae Chang (writer, director, producer, editor) and Adam Tow (director, producer, director of photography, editor).

Our next event is the annual Christmas Season Celebration. It is scheduled for early December at Pleasant Valley Instructional Center, 2222 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo. Come one! Come all! Enjoy an inspiring program by our Chinese classical dancers, our Chinese Language School students, and, especially, a visit by Old Saint Nicolas.

Chester's Asia Chinese Restaurant in Camarillo, has continuously supported our association throughout the years. Chester's Asia Chinese Restaurant \$25 Gift Certificates are being sold to support our Chinese School, our Club Scholarships and activities. You may purchase these gift certificates by calling Vivian Goo at (805) 482-6074. They make wonderful Christmas Gifts and will also be available at our Christmas Party on Dec. 10, 2011.

The VCCAA Board and Directors, and I wish all members and their families a joyous holiday season and a

## Happy New Year!

President 2011-2012

### 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](mailto:brt2eyes@yahoo.com).

Lena Ho  
Editor

## Welcome Committee

by Vivian Goo

Are you a new resident in Ventura County? Are you interested in meeting new friends and learning more about Chinese culture? You DO NOT have to be Chinese to join and attend activities of the Ventura County Chinese American Association.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Ventura County Chinese American Association, please call or e-mail our welcome hospitality committee chairs:



Lee-May Little  
Phone: (805) 660-5163  
Email: leemay93012@yahoo.com

or



Lixin Durborow  
Phone: (805) 512-1120  
Email: LixinHomeLinks@gmail.com

## Mid-Autumn Festival

by Louise Dilger, Chairperson



Approximately 150 people joined our VCCAA Family at the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival held on Sept. 17th at the Pleasant Valley Instructional Center.

The Chinese Language School Credit Class opened the program with a Chinese Flag Dance, which was then followed by a poem recital by the Level 3 students. Six students – Serena & Julian Chow; Sarah & John Eldridge; Nadiru Chu & Phillip Cheng – related their experiences from their China travels this past summer.

It is always a pleasure to have young students participate. We thoroughly enjoyed the vocal by Naomi Zhang and the two piano pieces by brothers Mason and Arlen King. Hopefully this will inspire other young people to share their expertise in future events.

Once again, Yu-Ling Lu's Classical Dance Troupe

– Jetta Wong, Jennifer Leo, Laurel Mooney, Lucy Curtis, Monica Lin, Kelly Tebbe, Emily Meschke – entertained us with their lovely dances in beautiful costumes. Lastly, the evening's program ended with a resounding drum performance by the Oxnard Buddhist Temple's Togen Daiko Drummers. We were fortunate to have them volunteer their time and energy.

Five different varieties of moon cake were passed out among the audience. This was a departure from the bean paste/egg yolk cakes that we've served in the past.

Thanks to all who helped make this night a success: the Youth Group & Camarillo High students who helped set and clean up; and to our members who brought food to share. But most of all, a huge, gigantic thanks to David Li and Kim Wang for emceeding the night's event.

## Screening of "Autumn Gem" (Qiu Jin)

by Irene Sy, Chairperson

The screening of Autumn Gem – Qiu Jin 秋瑾, a documentary on China's first feminist, was successfully held on Sept. 24, 2011 in the Preus-Brandt Forum building at the California Lutheran University (CLU) campus in Thousand Oaks.

We had a good turnout of over 300 people. The film maker, director, writer and co-producer, Ms. Rae Chang and Mr. Adam Tow, shared their knowledge of Qiu Jin and their experiences in the making of the video with us. Many of us have a better understanding of who the heroin Qiu Jin

was and had a glimpse of the history of China during that period after the screening. The audience enjoyed the documentary and participated in the question and answer session with the film maker.

I would like to thank Ms. Debbie Chang for her help to make the screening possible at CLU. Many thanks to Chef Tom Chuang for preparing dinner for Rae and Adam; and everyone who had helped. Flowers were presented to the directors and film makers after screening. Thank you all for the support and attending the event!



## Halloween Party

by Edna Tanita, Chairperson



The Halloween party took place on Sat., Oct. 22. There were about 50+ little and big people having a great time with the games. They also enjoyed eating hot dogs and other goodies.

Thanks to all the adults that helped

with the games and food. There were three categories of costume winners – original, scary and funniest. Hope to see more children and their parents next year.

## Upcoming Events

### Christmas Party

When: **Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011, 6:00 PM**

Where: **Pleasant Valley Instructional Center  
2222 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo**

Contact: **Brian Nomi, (805) 484-9970**



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!

There will be some entertainment after dinner, and Santa Clause will be giving gifts to the children.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please bring a dish to be shared sufficient for your family and ten plus extra people. Those families that kindly bring fried chicken, drumsticks are preferred, especially for the younger children. And those families who bring pizza are encouraged to have smaller (narrower) slices so all can enjoy it.

Beverages and some Chinese dishes will be provided by the VCCAA.

\* \* \* \* \*  
See you all for a fun packed family event.

## Chinese New Year Celebration

When: **Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012, 1:00-4:00 PM**

Where: **Camarillo Constitution Park  
1287 Paseo Camarillo/Carmen Dr.**

Contact: **Hillary Ling, Chair, (805) 386-4188  
Vivian Goo, Co-Chair, (805) 482-6074  
Zeak Simmons, Co-Chair, (805) 660-6451**



Welcome to New Year of the Dragon, 龍年!

Lion Dance Troupe, Chinese Classical Dance Troupe, Thousand Oaks Musical Ensemble and Language School, etc., will join together to welcome the most auspicious year of the Dragon, at our own backyard at Camarillo Constitution Park.

Come and witness the colorful traditional Lion Dancers – their artful kungfu footwork and jumping skills by the Chinatown Lion Dance Troupe, Los Angeles.

Come and enjoy the young artists performing the ancient royal palace dances and the modern folk dances too. Students of instructor Madam Yu-Ling Lu of Oxnard.

Come and have your names written in Chinese by Masters in Calligraphy, Richard and Ruby Lu of Camarillo.

Come and share a learning spirits of the young students, in language skills and in arts from the Chinese Language School under new school principal, Madam Irene Sy and her dedicated

teachers.

Mayor of Camarillo, the Honorable Michael Morgan, will also join us at the Celebration.

“We Build Cultural Bridges”

We thank our President Lloyd Ho and his team for leadership and hard work in planning for a New Year Celebration.

Join us at Camarillo Constitution Park for an afternoon of family fun of crafts and entertainment.



Dr. Hillary Ling  
Chairperson



Vivian Goo  
Co-chair



Dr. Zeak Simmons  
Co-chair

“新年快樂” – “新年快樂”

“Xin Nien Kuai Le” – “Kung He Huat Choi”

## Chinese Language School

by Irene Sy, Principal



The Chinese Language School started on Sept. 9, 2011. We have about 60 students enrolled in six language classes and 22 high school students in credit class, an all time high in credit class enrollment.

We welcome our new teachers, Ms. Qiu Hui Li 李秋慧老师, Ms. Rong Wong 王荣老师 and Ms. Yang Yang 杨阳老师.

Our energetic and creative Qiu Hui Li Laoshi 李秋慧老师 is teaching the Kindergarten class; Ms. Rong Wong 王荣老师 is leading our Level 1 class; Ms. Jenny Tu, 屠泽老师 graciously take the Level 2 class in spite of her busy schedule; Ms. Yang Yang 杨阳老师 is our Level 3 teacher; Ms. Na Lin, 林娜老

师 returns to take charge of Level 4 class and Ms. Jessie Chen 陈杰老师 is leading our adult conversational class. I will lead the credit class students in their Chinese cultural enrichment and language usage.

We have planned many interesting events in our 2011-2012 school year. The students had performed in the VCCAA Mid-Autumn Festival celebration and attended the Qiu Jin (Autumn Gem) screening on Sept. 24.

Our upcoming events will be the VCCAA Christmas Party program followed by our Talent and Variety Show on Jan. 27, 2012.

To help raise funds for our field trips and transportation, and a projector to be shared among our classes, we will be having a silent auction

during the VCCAA Christmas party. Please contact me at [vcchineseschool@aol.com](mailto:vcchineseschool@aol.com) or Mr. Xiaoming Chen at [xchen2000@yahoo.com](mailto:xchen2000@yahoo.com) if you can generously donate any gifts or make any contribution to our silent auction. We thank you in advance for your support and generosity to help us continue Chinese education for our children and

community.

Hope to see you in our Talent and Variety Show on Jan. 27 at the Pleasant Valley Instructional Center at 6:00pm to welcome the year of the Dragon!

Thank you! 谢谢!

### Chinese Language School Staff



Ms. Qiu Hui Li  
Kindergarten



Ms. Rong Wong  
Level 1



Ms. Ze Tu  
Level 2



Ms. Yang Yang  
Level 3



Ms. Na Lin  
Level 4



Ms. Jessie Chen  
Conversation

Ms. Irene Sy  
Principal  
Credit Class



Mr. Xiaoming Chen  
Vice Principal  
PTA Chairperson

## Scholarships

by Vivian Goo, Chairperson



Scholarship applications for children of VCCAA members will be on our website at [www.vccaa.org](http://www.vccaa.org) after Jan. 8, 2012. Applications for all students attending West Ventura County schools will be in the respective school scholarship offices after Jan. 8, 2012.

Don't miss an opportunity to secure scholarship funds. For family members of the VCCAA, go to the website, download an application, fill out the application, submit the application by the due date. All other West Ventura County students who are NOT VCCAA members must get their application from their respective schools.

## Youth Group

by David Li, President



Hello Everyone!

Since the beginning of the school year, the Youth Group has participated in a variety of activities. We supported the Mid-Autumn Festival, where we set up, served food, and cleaned up throughout the event. My fellow Youth Group member Kim Wang and I had the privilege to emcee for the performances of the festival.

Several members of the Youth Group also

participated in a Chinatown field trip, a joint event of the Youth Group and the ACHS Chinese Culture Club where participants received direct exposure to Chinese culture.

I would like to all those who aided in the organization of our activities. I also look forward to future activities, such as the Christmas Party next month.

With kind regards,  
David Li

## Membership

The annual membership directory will be available for distribution during the Christmas Season Celebration in Dec. Please ensure that

you have renewed your membership in order to get one of these gems. Remember, become a life member, then future renewals not required!

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Law Office of Brian Nomi  
Attorney At Law

215 E. Daily Drive, Suite 28  
Camarillo, CA 93010  
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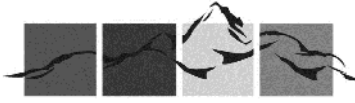
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The Ventura County  
Chinese American Association

## Dance Troupe

*is currently welcoming new dancers!*



All classes are currently open

Monday	5:30 pm – 5:50 pm (Intermediate)
Wednesday	4:30 pm – 5:50 pm (Beginner)
Friday	7:30 pm – 9:00 pm (Advanced)

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

Classes held at  
2031 Spyglass Trail West, Oxnard 93036.  
For more information, please contact  
Mrs. Yu-Ling Lu at (805) 983-6082 or 990-3866

# Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
<b>Christmas Party</b>	Dec. 10, 2011 Saturday, 6:00 PM	Pleasant Valley Instructional Ctr. 2222 Ventura Blvd. Camarillo	Brian Nomi
<b>Chinese New Year Celebration</b>	Jan. 28, 2012 Saturday, 1:00 PM	Camarillo Constitution Park 1287 Paseo Camarillo/Carmen Dr. Camarillo	Hillary Ling Vivian Goo Zeak Simmons
<b>Easter Egg Hunt</b>	Mar. 31, 2012 Saturday, 12:30 PM	Ling Ranch Somis	Lesley Ling-Sule



Year of the Rabbit  
4709