



Ventura County Chinese American Association VCCAA



Newsletter

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Web Sites

VCCAA

www.vccaa.org

Language School

<https://vccls.wikispaces.com>

Historical Society

www.vccahs.org

Newsletter Editor

Ricky Leo
* * * *

VCCAA Newsletter

P.O. Box 806
Camarillo, CA 93011

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Greetings from the President

Dear VCCAA members and friends,



It is hard to believe that I have served as your president for the past 5 years! It has been an honor and a privilege that you have put your trust in me. I have gotten a chance to know many of you and your families much better. I would like to thank all the board members for their support and guidance. As I said in my first greeting back in August of 2018, I hope that I have lived up to the faith you have put in me.

It has been a challenging presidency, mainly because of the effects of the pandemic that prevented us from having our traditional events and activities. After the easing of restrictions, I did my best to provide alternate activities that would allow us to carry out our mission to “Build Cultural Bridges”.

I would like to welcome three new members to our VCCAA board, John Lu, Associate Professor at Cal State Channel Islands, Brad Reichman, insurance agent, and Dr. George Yu. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Lixin Durborow, who is leaving our board, for her more than 10 years of service.

Here is a summary of some of the highlights of the past 5 years:

In 2018, we mourned the passing of Angela Soo Hoo, a dear and valued member of our community. I will never forget the short time that I was able to spend with her. I learned so much about her, her husband who was the first American born Chinese mayor in California, and her son and his family. She taught me not to be afraid and to have confidence in what I believe and do. She helped me after I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I will never forget her.

In 2019, when I found out about the Congressional Gold Medal that was awarded to Chinese Americans who served in WWII, I searched for veterans who had a connection to Ventura County so that I could help them register for the award. One of the only living veterans was Arnold Jue. I was delighted to visit with Arnold and Pansy and learn about Arnold’s service to our country in World War II and about his involvement in the formation of our association. We had a very successful Chinese New Year Celebration at the Camarillo Library, celebrating the Year of the Pig. Prior to the celebration, I had invited Eugene Moy of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC) to give a presentation about the early Chinese in America and their contribution to the building of America, including the construction of Transcontinental Railroad. At the celebration, one of the most popular acts was Migz the magician from the Magic Castle. We participated in the Oxnard Multicultural Festival to strengthen our ties to the community. In December, we hosted an education delegation from Shaoxing, China. Members of our association, including myself, volunteered to decorate the “American Heroes” float honoring WWII veterans in the Rose Parade. Barbara Coulter brought Miss Ventura County Teen. I was honored to walk alongside the float with my husband Ricky on New Year’s Day.

In 2020, I worked on the Census committee in Ventura County to ensure that members of our community were informed about the importance of being counted and the economic benefit this would bring. We participated in the “Dig Into History” event at the Albinger Archaeological Museum. Prior to our Lunar New Year Celebration, I had invited Dr. Russell Low to speak about “Chinese Americans in WWII”. This was a very special presentation because Dr. Low is an engaging speaker, and we found out that his father and my husband’s father, both served in WWII, but in totally different parts of the world, and both received a Silver Star, one of the highest medals

awarded for gallantry in action. At the Lunar New Year Celebration, we were able to honor our local Chinese American WWII veterans and their families before the pandemic restricted our public events. It was a very special event because the mayors of Camarillo (Tony Trembley), Oxnard (Tim Flynn), and Santa Paula (Rick Araiza) as well as Mayor Pro Tem Carmen Ramirez from Oxnard and County Supervisor Kelly Long were all present. Despite the pandemic, we hosted a group from the Miss Chinatown Los Angeles Pageant at the request of Winston & Joanne Young. With the help of Linda Bentz, Mabel Chow and her Tai Chi group, and myself, we taught the group of young women about Chinese American history in Ventura County, Tai Chi and calligraphy. My daughter Jennifer received the Lena & Lloyd Ho scholarship, recognizing her many years of participation in Mrs. Yuling Lu's Classical Dance Troupe. When I found out about the availability of the PPP loan, I reached out to members of our community who were impacted by the pandemic and helped them to apply for this financial aid. I was able to assist the Ventura County Arts Council when they reached out to our organization. They had a limited amount of CARES grant funds that they wanted to distribute to arts organizations who worked with communities of color. I helped to review the applications that they received and was able to obtain a share of these funds to help our own association.

In 2021, we had a virtual Chinese New Year Celebration with a video showcasing past performances and events. It was wonderful to see everyone at our Zoom meeting. We delivered the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) to Arnold Jue at his home in Santa Paula. There was a special ceremony to honor him, including a color guard, state and local dignitaries, including Congresswoman Julia Brownley, County Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, Santa Paula Mayor Rick Araiza, family and VCCAA members. Our association teamed up with the Chinese American Heritage Foundation to take part in a unified nationwide rally for National Day of Solidarity Against AAPI Hate with a local rally at Constitution Park in Camarillo. We had an impressive lineup of speakers including Dr. George Yu, Judge Kee Choo Ling, County Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, Kim Stephenson, Annie Cho, Anouk Hirano, Dr. Wenli Jen, and Dr. Jeffrey Davies. Dr. Shuiman Lee gave a moving talk about his personal relationship with Vincent Chin. In October, I invited Dr. George Yu to speak at the CHSSC monthly meeting, speaking about the Chinese in Ventura County and sharing his knowledge about COVID-19. VCCAA co-sponsored a Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony at the VFW Museum of Military History in the Simi Valley Towne Center. Veterans in Southern California, including families with ties to Ventura County received their long overdue medals and recognition for their service to our country. Three retired Major Generals and Congressman Mike Garcia presented the medals to four living veterans and the families of deceased veterans. Members of our association served as volunteers. Honored veterans included Albert Fong Chan, Edwin Lowe, William Soo Hoo, Edward Soo Hoo, Sonny Leo, Donald Jue and Yit Sang Jew.

In 2022, George Yu and I presented a "Moment of Inspiration" to the County Board of Supervisors. I also participated in a virtual Lunar New Year ceremony with Cal State University Channel Islands on behalf of VCCAA. As a representative of our association, I participated in the inaugural Asian American/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Festival at King Gillette Ranch in Calabasas. A special thanks to Lee May Little for providing the red paper for my calligraphy and my friend Julie Myers for doing the origami. We went on a walking tour of the Los Angeles Chinatown prior to joining the CHSSC Summer Picnic. There was a Star Party at the Moorpark College Observatory to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival and we participated in the annual City of Oxnard Multicultural Festival. A special thanks to our volunteers: Andy & Lee-May Little, Richard & Alex Lu, Brad Reichman, Ricky Leo and myself. We were saddened to learn of the passing of County Supervisor Carmen Ramirez. We ended the year with a holiday potluck at the home of Angus Simmons and Yongping Chen.

In 2023, we invited Dr. Russell Low to speak at the CHSSC monthly program in January and Dr. David Lowe to speak at their February program.

With our continued involvement in the community, we have truly put our association on the map. It's time to nominate officers for our association board. We would like to solicit your input.

	SAVE THE DATE: Our summer get-together will be on June 24. We will announce our VCCAA scholarship winners and swear in our new board members. Stay tuned for more details.
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Grace Leo 廖陳淑芬

VCCAA Board Nominations

Officers:

President	TBD
Vice President	TBD
Treasurer	Andy Little
Secretary	TBD
Membership	Lee-May Little

Directors:

Yong Ping Chen
 Michael Kwan
 Lee-May Little
 John Lu
 Richard Lu
 Brad Reichman
 Angus Simmons
 Irene Sy
 Dr. George Yu

Nominations are welcome and should be emailed to info@vccaa.org.

Scholarships: Attention High School Seniors! *by Irene Sy, Chair*

VCCAA is offering five (5) Scholarships for college-bound seniors this year. There are two special scholarships which you have to specify for in your application (the Denis Smith Scholarship and Doreen Smith Scholarship) otherwise go for the General Academic Scholarships. The Lena Ho Scholarship is open to Folk Dancers only. Descriptions for each are on page 2 of the application. The application this year will be ONLINE ONLY. You can access the application from the VCCAA official website, www.vccaa.org. A copy will also be sent to the College and Career counselor at your school. Applications must be received no later than May 5, 2023. Start your application early since it takes time to obtain a recommendation letter and test scores (if applicable, since some may not have taken your SAT or ACT test due to the pandemic.) Upload a copy of your AP score if you have taken any in the online application. Click here (<https://bit.ly/3mRAMBJ>) or scan the QR code below to start your application. Good luck to all applicants!



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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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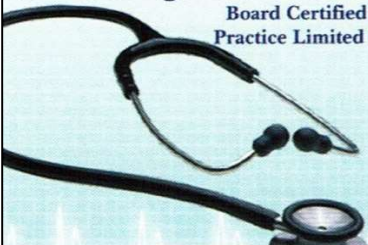
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Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Summer Get Together	Saturday, June 24, 2023	TBA

Membership Renewal Reminder

If you have not renewed your VCCAA membership for 2023, please send your check for \$25, made payable to

VCCAA
P.O. Box 806
Camarillo, CA 93001-0806.



Year of the Rabbit
4721

Please fill out and return the membership form on our website, <https://vccaa.org/text/MemberAppl.pdf>, including any changes to your physical address, email address, or contact phone number so we can update the directory.