



Ventura County Chinese American Association VCCAA



Newsletter

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www.vccaa.org

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VCCAA Newsletter
P.O. Box 806
Camarillo, CA 93011
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Greetings from the President

Dear Friends,

Da Jia Hao! It is a great pleasure to greet all of you for the first time in this space as VCCAA President. I was honored to become "official" when Administrative Judge Kee Choo Ling swore me in at the Board's June 15th meeting. I look forward to working with all of you in following George Yu, MD, and so many other distinguished leaders of VCCAA, to further the goals of our Association.

As a non-profit organization that is supported completely by generous volunteer efforts, we are indeed fortunate to have had many hard working Presidents and Boards over the years. Our public events such as the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival and the Chinese New Year Celebration put on with the Camarillo Library have won great acceptance in the greater Ventura community. Many of our Ventura neighbors have an opportunity to enjoy and share in the colorful and lively presentations of Chinese dance, acrobatics, and music that we all love. When Camarillo's Mayor refers to our New Year Celebration in the City Council Sessions, or in the annual state of Camarillo report, I know that is something that we all take pride in. We have a cordial and cooperative relationship with our East County friends in the Conejo Chinese Cultural Association (CCCA). I am grateful to George for his leadership and the fabulous job he has done in bringing us to this point, and delighted that he remains an active Board Member, and continues to chair our historical society.

Are you all aware that Camarillo has a sister city relationship with Shaoxing? As you know, Shaoxing is an area of China steeped in cultural history – rice wine, silk, known as the "Oriental Venice" for its beautiful canals, the hometown of many famous figures including statesman and Prime Minister Zhou Enlai and famed writer Lu Xun, and today a thriving economy. I saw a statistic that one-third of the world's ties are made there! Camarillo Vice Mayor Mike Morgan tells me a delegation from Shaoxing will visit Camarillo this Fall, and I hope that VCCAA can play its part in helping to welcome the delegation when the time comes. Do we have any members whose family trace their ancestry to that part of China?

Yongping and I took a trip to China, including to Tibet last May-June (unfortunately missing a great Memorial Day picnic, I hear). Our trip was amazing, although we learned that high altitude adjustment is a real phenomenon. The train from Xining in Qinghai has oxygen piped in to help with adjustment as the train climbs to Lhasa's 3800 meters. Because one member of our group experienced more adjustment issues than others, we also discovered first-hand how well prepared the Number One Peoples Hospital in Lhasa is to treat visitors. At two a.m., we were calmly led into the hospital's "oxygen bar" where fifteen other people were breathing oxygen for a two-hour session. The next morning we headed off to the Potola Palace, and savored its beauty at a very measured pace. I don't think anybody bounds up those stone stairs. Of course, Yongping enjoyed being in the home of the famed cordyceps (dong chong xia cao), and we bought a few very recently dug samples from local merchants.

Travel in China is always educational, and I am struck by the way people everywhere grapple with many of the same challenges. The results of the growing use of cars and fossil fuels over the last thirty-five years is only too obvious in every large city, but there are many villages where every house has a passive solar water heating system on the roof. There are seven large Chinese cities that are testing a carbon trading system similar to the system we have here in California. The China high-speed rail system connects well with long-distance buses to make public transportation quite convenient. Finding taxis at the station when you need one is convenient. You access a phone app "di di da che", which can ensure a clean, reliable car in any city.

Our Chinese Language School, directed by VCCAA Vice President Irene Sy, has long been an important part of the tradition of our Association. I would like to see if we can find ways to support and strengthen its activities, and welcome any ideas you may have. The school has always provided VCCAA member families a place for our children to practice Chinese with native speakers, as well as a venue for children to learn cultural traditions such as history and calligraphy. Please tell your friends who may have an interest in studying Chinese about the classes the school offers and give us any suggestions on how to improve the school. Now that Ventura County has Chinese language programs in the high schools, I hope that many of these students may be interested in the opportunity to get extra language practice and improve on what they have learned in their school classrooms. If we can find a way to offer quality language study to a broader community, including people doing international business and adult travelers to China, that would be very much in line with our Association goals.

Finally, I would like to thank Hillary Ling, Alvin Little, and Lee-May Little, who are hard at work updating our VCCAA Directory. Please help us make our 2015-2017 Directory as complete and accurate as possible by providing them with your updated contact information. Also, if by chance you have forgotten to send your check for your 2015-2016 membership dues, I hope you will not mind my adding this gentle reminder.

I know we are all looking forward to Mid-Autumn Festival next month at our now traditional Rancho Rosal School/Village-at-the-Park location on September 26th. I hope you are all marking your calendars. The Festival is associated with the harvest and full moon, family harmony and unity, and of course is an opportunity to eat mooncakes. Annie Wang is leading VCCAA's preparations, so I am sure there will be a wonderful cultural program full of fun surprises. I hope you will all come. Zhong Qiu Kuai-le!

Angus Simmons
President 2015-16

Memorial Day Picnic *by Lee-May Little*

The annual Memorial Day Picnic was held on Monday, May 25th at the Bob Kildee Park in Camarillo. As usual the weather was beautiful. We had more than 150 people gathering that day.

Our veteran chef, George Ng, brought his son-in-law, Frank Bell, and together with Dr. Frank Chieu, and Wil Durham, they worked hard to cook up a tasty BBQ of tri-tip, teriyaki chicken, chili beans, salad and all the trimmings.

With an additional cool summer treat, watermelon, I think we had the best lunch in Camarillo that day. While the cooking team was busy preparing the food, four cute little girls, Naomi Zhang, Judy Nomi, Jackie Zhao, and Jayme Smarinsky came up and sang "America the Beautiful" together. It was a great song to contribute for Memorial Day.

That day also was our VCCAA annual membership renewal day. Our lovely volunteer team, Jackie Sittinger, Louise Dilger, and Lixin Durborow, were busy with members' name lists and happy to see all of the familiar faces. Wonderful news – we had several new families join us that day. We certainly welcome them into our big family. Annie Wang and her two sons, Alex and Adam, were also very busy selling the meal tickets. We really appreciated their teamwork. We would also like to thank our scholarship recipients for helping out with the serving.

After lunch VCCAA president George Yu emceed the program, while Louise Dilger, as Scholarship Chairperson, coordinated the scholarship presentations. The Tony Chen Scholarship (\$750) was presented to Amy Li 李文怡 of Westlake High School. The Dr. Fu-Kuen Lin Scholarship (\$750) was presented to Dane Baker, of St. Bonaventure High School. The Yu 余 Family Scholarship (\$750) was presented to Julian Chow 周詩礼 of Rio Mesa High School. The VCCAA Scholarship (\$500) was presented to Jesse Sohn of Buena High School. Congratulations to all of our scholarship winners. You have made your parents proud, we wish you the best and continued success.

Another wonderful surprise: three of our VCCAA last year's scholarship recipients, Melissa Yu, Karina Wang, and Serena Chow, were there and also expressed their appreciation and shared some of their achievements in their universities.





Incoming officers and directors for the fiscal year 2015 – 2016 were announced and presented to the members.

Administrative Law Judge Kee-Choo Ling swore them in. In between these events, drawings were held for raffle prizes which included wine, grill

tools, quad chairs, dried mushrooms and dried peanuts, and many other great prizes. Thanks to Stella Ling for arranging the raffle prizes. With Dr Ling's humorous emceeing, you two are the perfect team.

I want to thank our wonderful VCCAA Youth Group for their great job and teamwork. And also many thanks to all of you who volunteered to cook rice and help out behind the scenes. You made this picnic and this organization a success.

Hope to see you all again next year!

Scholarship Recipients Show Their Thanks *by Louise Dilger*

The four recipients of our 2015 VCCAA scholarship awards have all shown their appreciation with heartfelt thanks to our club for its generosity. Here is how they expressed themselves:

This is Dane Baker. I just wanted to thank you so much for taking the time to review my application and for selecting me for the Dr. Fu-Kuen Lin Scholarship! It is truly an honor. I am ecstatic to have been chosen, so thank you again!

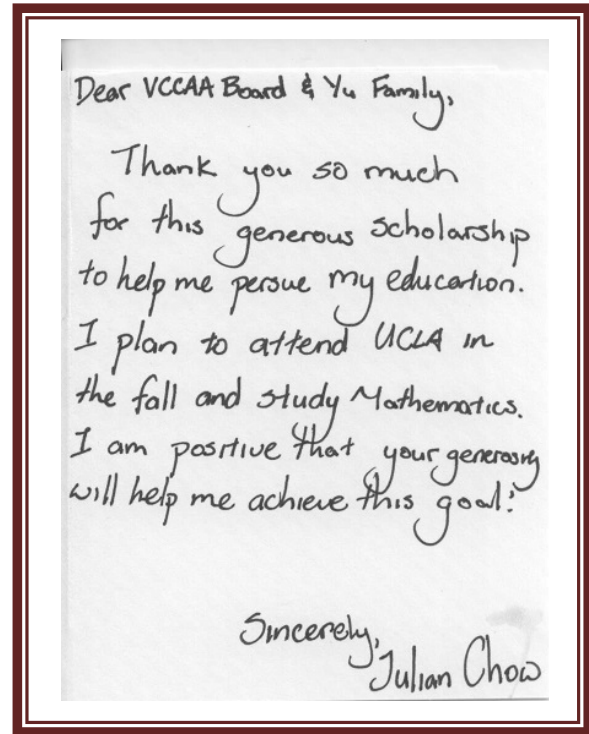
Sincerely,

Dane Baker

Thank you, Mr. Chen!

I'm sure your donation to the scholarship funds for the VCCCA is appreciated, but I in particular am thankful for receiving it. The scholarship will surely help me in my studies in the UC system, and I thank you deeply for creating such an opportunity.

Amy Li



High School Seniors!

Don't wait until the last minute to work on your VCCAA Academic Scholarship Application! The due date is **March 31, 2016**, but that date will roll around before you know it. This year we have three \$750 scholarships and one \$500 scholarship. We will contact your high school career counselor/advisor in the Fall semester to provide the specific requirements.

We are working on refining our procedures by making it possible to submit your application and official transcripts directly through a website. Check into <http://www.vccaa.org> frequently to check out our progress.

Upcoming Events!

Mid-Autumn Festival *by Annie Wang*



When: Saturday, Sept 26, 2015 at 6:00pm

Where: Rancho Rosal School

**3535 Village at the Park Drive
 Camarillo, CA 93012**

Contact: Annie Wang, (805) 377-9005

It's that time of year for the Chinese to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. It is so called because it is in the middle of the eighth month, which is a full moon. We used to celebrate the full moon by eating fruit and moon-cake while children played with their lanterns and

neighbors. Why do people celebrate the moon in mid-Autumn? It's because of a story that happened long ago in China.

On the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar the moon is full, and it is time for the Chinese people to mark their Moon Festival, or the Mid-Autumn Festival. The round shape of the moon symbolizes reunion. Therefore the day is celebrated as a holiday for family members to get together and enjoy the full moon representing an auspicious token of abundance of harmony and luck.

There is this story about the moon-cake. During the Yuan dynasty (A.D.1280-1368) China was ruled by the Mongolian people.

Leaders from the preceding Sung dynasty (A.D.960-1280) were unhappy at submitting to the foreign rule, and set out to coordinate the rebellion without being discovered. The leaders of the rebellion, knowing that the Moon Festival was drawing near, ordered the making of special cakes. Embedded in each moon-cake was a message with the outline of the attack. On the night of the Moon Festival, the rebels successfully attacked and overthrew the government. Today, moon-cakes are eaten to commemorate this legend.



Please bring a dish to be shared sufficient for your family and ten-plus extra people. Beverages will be provided by the VCCAA.

Chinese Language School *by Irene Sy*



I hope everyone is staying cool and enjoying the sunny summer days. Chinese School had a good 2014-2015 academic year and added many young energetic and enthusiastic learners. Our next academic year will begin on September 4, 2015. Registration form for the 2015-2016 school year can be downloaded from our website at: <https://vccls.wikispaces.com>

Our school site will remain the same at the Pleasant Valley Recreation Park District (Camarillo Community Center) at 1605 Burnley Drive in Camarillo. Classes will meet every Friday evening from 7:00P.M. to 9:00P.M., and 7:00P.M. to 10:00P.M. for credit class. Please help spread the word, pass on the school information, or disseminate our flyers with your friends, relatives, or anywhere you think might help advertise our school for new enrollment. Feel free to contact me at vcchineseschool@aol.com or vccls93012@gmail.com if you have any questions. I am looking forward to another exciting year ahead.

I look forward to an increase in enrollment and more activities this year. Your help to share the school information is greatly appreciated. As for our returning students, please visit our website to download the registration form and mail it in before August 24 to take advantage of the early registration discount. I will see everyone on September 4, 2015 at 7:00pm.

Enjoy your summer !

More Pictures from the Memorial Day BBQ - Thank you all for participating!





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你好!

Ni Hao! Hello

谢谢!

Xie-xie!

Thank you

Contact: Irene Sy
Tel: 805-482-4765

Email:

VCChineseSchool@aol.com
VCCLS93012@gmail.com

Time and Location:

Time:
Every Friday,
7:00pm-9:00pm

Location:

Pleasant Valley Recreation
and Park District
(Camarillo Community Center)

1605 E. Burnley Drive
Camarillo, CA 93010

Classes start in September

Come join us:

- Kindergarten : Ages 5 to 6 ½ (Fun Class)
- Level 1 (beginners) : Pin Yin pronunciation
- Level 2,3 (basic) : Pin Yin pronunciation
- Level 4,5 (Intermediate) : Pin Yin pronunciation
- Conversation : Chinese conversational skills
- Credit Class: High School credit for Foreign Language

High school credit class hours
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

范杜拉中文学校

Ventura County Chinese Language School
(A non-profit Organization)

P.O. Box 806
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Website: <https://vccls.wikispaces.com>

Tuition:

VCCAA Member – \$225 / semester.
Non-member – \$250 / semester.
(incl \$25 for VCCAA Membership)
Credit Class - \$300 / semester.
VCCAA membership is \$25 per family

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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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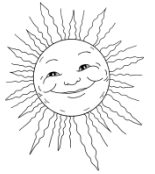
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Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
Mid-Autumn Festival	Saturday, September 26, 2015 at 6:00 pm	Rancho Rosal School 3535 Village at the Park Drive Camarillo, CA 93012	Annie Wang: (805) 377-9005
Chinese Language School Begins	Friday, September 4, 2015 at 7:00pm	Camarillo Community Center 1605 Burnley Drive Camarillo, CA 93010	Irene Sy: vcchineseschool@aol.com vccls93012@gmail.com



Year of the Ram
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