



Ventura County Chinese American Association VCCAA



Newsletter

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* * * *

VCCAA Newsletter

P.O. Box 806

Camarillo, CA 93011

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Greetings from the President

Dear Friends,

Summer greetings to all of you! I hope you are managing to stay out of the heat. I know many of you were able to support and attend the May 21 event honoring the 50th anniversary of Bill Soo Hoo becoming Mayor of Oxnard, the first person of Chinese ancestry to become a mayor in California. It was a wonderful celebration of an important piece of Ventura County and Oxnard history. I was very pleased that the event was recognized by so many officials through proclamations including two members of Congress and numerous other California elected officials. It was very fitting that California's most senior elected official of Chinese origin, California Treasurer John Chiang was able to give keynote remarks, along with Equalization Board Chair Fiona Ma. So many of our Board and VCCAA/VCCAHS members stepped forward to make the evening truly memorable. This kind of event simply could not have been arranged without such an amazing team effort. Grace Leo was an inspiration to all of us with her dynamic approach to arranging food, the hall decoration, best family China ware, and ticket sales.

Yun and Pearl Chao produced the spectacular documentary film, which, when coupled with Peter Higgins' smooth narration brought the history alive. Shuqin Zhao's musicians provided a marvelous backdrop to the proceedings and Yuling Lu's dancers were graceful and showed that "show must go on" determination and poise despite a brief malfunction of the equipment. And who can forget Sifu's three lion performance that charmed every table! Louise Dilger led the preparation of a great companion exhibition at the Oxnard Library. Throughout the preparations for the event, Angela Soo Hoo was ever generous with her time and sharing of memorabilia, and gracious in her advice and support for the evening. I hope you all enjoy the fantastic photos of the event printed in this edition of the newsletter that were taken by SK Leong and Hillary Ling.

In part as a result of putting on the Soo Hoo Dinner, VCCAA/VCCAHS now have several opportunities to participate in new activities, which we are considering. Our historian Linda Bentz, and CSUCI History Professor Scott Corbett, are looking into arranging a historical walking tour and lecture about Oxnard's China Alley, beginning on Oxnard at Mama Soo Hoo's and ending in Heritage Square. Mr. Pedro Chan has approached us about arranging two possible historical exhibits: one of Flying Tiger photos and memorabilia and the second about Sun Yat-sen. How many of you knew that Sun Yat-sen managed to hide out from Qing Dynasty agents in Ventura County? Finally, we have once again been invited to join the Oxnard Multi-cultural Festival on October 1, and are planning to staff a booth there. These are all projects with great potential, and I hope that anyone interested in volunteering for any of these activities will come to the August 18 VCCAHS meeting to join in the discussion.

On a very sad note, we learned of the passing of our dear friend and VCCAA colleague Lena Ho, and extend our deepest condolences to her husband and our past VCCAA President Lloyd Ho. We continue to be fortunate in having generous donors for many of our activities. Just when we had to vacate our long-time storage facilities, Mr. Barton Stern, President of Ventura Investment Company, and a long-time supporter, offered to let us use a storage space in Safe Storage for the next year. We are very grateful! I also want to thank Lee-May Little for doing the work to coordinate our move into the new location.

As September approaches, I hope that we will see you all at the Mid-Autumn Festival. Annie Wang is already hard at work putting together a great program. See you all there!

Best regards,

Angus Simmons

President 2015-16

Memorial Day Picnic *by Lee-May Little*

The annual Memorial Day Picnic was held on Monday, May 30th at the Bob Kildee Park in Camarillo. The weather was perfect. We had many members and their families and their friends participating.

Luckily all 4 veteran chefs - George Ng, Dr. Frank Chieu, Wil Durham and Frank Bell were all available this year to work together to cook up a tasty BBQ of tri-tip, teriyaki chicken, chili beans, salad & all the trimmings.

Also Larry Jue's family gave them a big hand. We would also like to thank our scholarship recipients



for helping out with the serving.

This year I asked my friend Helen Hsu to share her special talent by teaching some of her line dances, encouraging members to have some fun before the big lunch was served. Later we had another big new surprise, magician Dr. Pedro Chan. He is a practicing chiropractor and loves to share magic with young and energetic audiences. For this show, he pulled bunnies and bananas out of a hat, turned a wand into a bundle of flowers and pulled a rainbow ribbon out of his mouth. I am sure all the young audiences were happy with the entertainment. Thank you Dr. Hillary Ling for arranging this surprise.



The event was also our VCCAA annual membership renewal day. Our lovely volunteer team of Louise Dilger, Alice Ginn, Lixin Durborow, and Annie Wang, were busy with members' name lists. Wonderful news – we had 6 new members join us. There are Wencan Chen, Lauren Gee, Hualei Qian, Annie Leong, Lilly Liu, and Songzhi Zhang. Welcome to the VCCAA.

After lunch Irene Sy emceed the program, while Louise Dilger, as Scholarship Chairperson,





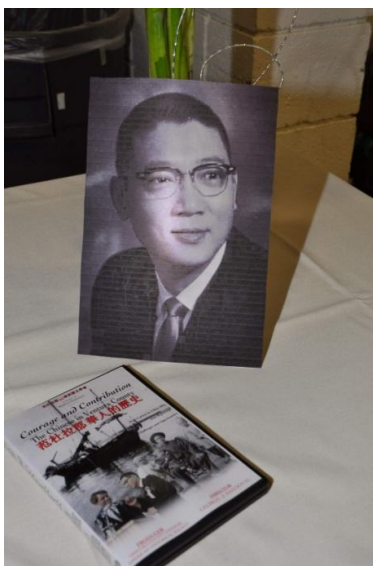
coordinated the scholarship presentations. The Tony Chen Scholarship (\$750) was presented to Ethan Chen, who is going to the University of Pennsylvania Wharton Business School in the fall. The Dr. Fu-Kuen Lin Scholarship (\$750) was presented to Kianna Jue, who is going to UC San Diego. The Yu Family Scholarship (\$750) was presented to Jessica Yuan, who is headed to UC Berkeley. The Little Family Scholarship (\$500) was presented to Laurel Mooney. She has chosen Loyola Marymount Christian School in L.A. Congratulations to all of our scholarship winners. You made your parents proud, and we wish you the best and continued success.

Incoming officers and directors for the fiscal year 2016-2017 were announced and presented to the members. Former VCCAA President Herbert Yen swore them in. In between these events, drawings were held for raffle prizes. Thanks to Mrs. Stella Ling for arranging the raffle prizes. With Dr. Ling's humorous emceeing, you two are the perfect team. I want to thank many 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!

50th Anniversary Soo Hoo Dinner *by Ricky Leo*



On May 21, 2016, the Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society (VCCAHS), the Ventura County Chinese American Association (VCCAA) and the City of Oxnard held a commemoration dinner for approximately 250 attendees to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Oxnard's first native born, Chinese American mayor. Mayor Bill Soo Hoo was selected to be Oxnard's mayor in 1966 and served the city as mayor for four years. The event honored his family, his political career, and his contributions to the City of Oxnard. His contributions



Oxnard's mayor in 1966 and served the city as mayor for four years. The event honored his family, his political career, and his contributions to the City of Oxnard. His contributions

included: enticing new industries into the area to serve Oxnard's growing population, improving relations with the cities of Port Hueneme and Camarillo, and the California State Treasurer, the Honorable John Chiang.

Other speakers included current Oxnard Mayor Tim Flynn and Oxnard Harbor Commission president and former Oxnard Mayor, Dr. Manuel Lopez. Mayor Soo Hoo's wife Angela and their only son Brian were in attendance to accept proclamations from John Chiang, Fiona Ma from the State Board of Equalization and other state government officials. Oxnard Mayor Tim Flynn presented a memorial plaque. Performances at the dinner included music by The Voice of Thousand Oaks Music Academy, Lion Dance by the Camarillo Kung Fu & Lion Dance Association, and cultural dances by the VCCAA Dance Troupe.

Upcoming Events!

Mid-Autumn Festival *by Annie Wang*

When: Saturday, Sept 17, 2016 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 great, successful and eventful 2015-2016 academic year. We had a Speech Competition, our very own Christmas party where we had gift exchange, silent auction, and Chinese New Year celebration where students enjoyed making dumplings and collecting lucky money (hong bao – red envelope); helped out in the Camarillo city-wide spectacular Chinese New Year celebration as well as the Multicultural Book Fest.

Time flies and now our next academic year is fast approaching which will begin on **September 2, 2016**. Registration form for the new 2016-2017 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. Class time will remain the same from 7:00PM to 9:00PM every Friday evening and from 7:00PM to 10:00PM 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 be helpful to bring up our school enrollment. Please feel free to contact me at vcchineseschool@aol.com or vccls93012@gmail.com if you have any questions. I look forward to another exciting year ahead.

Enjoy a few more days of your summer before school start !

Lena Lee Ho

October 27, 1948—June 18, 2016



After a two-year battle with lung cancer, Lena is now with the Lord.

Lena's parents, Yuet Hoy Yee and Sam Wah Lee, had four children. Lena was the oldest of the four children, then Frank, Laura, and Harvey. Lena attended San Pedro Street Elementary School, John Adams Jr. High School, and Belmont High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the School of Public Health, University of California at Los Angeles, then earned a Master of Public Health

Degree from California State University at Northridge.

Her first job after UCLA was at the Compton Multipurpose Health Facility as a Project Manager for a nutrition study in conjunction with a grant with UCLA. When the kids were older she studied, was tested, and earned an optician license and became the general manager at Eye Tech.

Lena decided to be a stay-at-home mom. She loved her family. Every activity was done as a nuclear family, whether traveling within the U.S., to Europe, or to China. Lena loved to travel to new places, to learn new things, and to expand her knowledge of the world. She was very inquisitive. Plus she loved the beach where she enjoyed the serenity, beauty, and sunshine.

Lena was very proud of her children's success. Langley as a Dentist and lifetime Eagle Scout; Liana as an Optometrist; and Lindsey as a Professor of Biostatistics.

Lena is survived by her husband Lloyd (married for over forty-four years); children—Langley, Liana, Lindsey; grandchildren—Preston, Connor, Malia, Jayden, Camilo, and Mayeli.

Announcement - Lena Lee Ho

Lena Ho, wife of our past president Lloyd Ho, passed away in June 2016. She graduated from UCLA and received her MPH from CSU, Northridge. She was the mother of three children and six grandchildren. She supported Lloyd in everything he did especially during the four years that he was the President of VCCAA. She helped at our VCCAA events and all the duties that Lloyd had as president of VCCAA for four years. We will miss Lena at our VCCAA functions and give our deepest sympathy to her family.

-Members of VCCAA-

More Pictures from the Memorial Day Picnic and Soo Hoo Dinner 2016 - Thank you all for participating!



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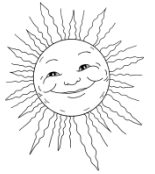
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Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
Mid-Autumn Festival	Saturday, September 17, 2016 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 2, 2016 at 7:00pm	Camarillo Community Center 1605 Burnley Drive Camarillo, CA 93010	Irene Sy: vcchineseschool@aol.com vccls93012@gmail.com
Christmas Party	Saturday, Dec 10, 2016 at 6:00 pm	Rancho Rosal School 3535 Village at the Park Drive Camarillo, CA 93012	Brian Nomi: 805-444-5960



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