



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.vccaahs.org

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VCCAA Newsletter

P.O. Box 806

Camarillo, CA 93011

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Greetings from the President

Dear VCCAA members and friends,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve as your new VCCAA President. I will strive to live up to the faith you have put in me. I would like to give special recognition to Angus Simmons for serving as VCCAA President for the past three years and Irene Sy for her dedication to the Chinese Language School for the past twenty plus years. She also served as the VCCAA Vice President and the committee chair for the Chinese New Year Festival. Best of luck to them on their future endeavors. We are very fortunate that they both will continue to serve as board members. With their valuable insight, guidance, experience, and leadership, we will continue to have a strong association.

I am proud to be a part of this great organization whose purpose is to "Build Cultural Bridges". I think it is important that we continue to learn about our Chinese culture and about other cultures as well. This provides a foundation for understanding and developing better relationships. We learn about our culture and other cultures from social interactions with other members of our own organization, and with members of our local and global community. Please tell your friends, neighbors and colleagues about VCCAA. Invite them to our events, we would love to have them join us.

A recent social interaction we shared was at the Memorial Day picnic. It was an enjoyable event that was well attended. Thanks to everyone who was involved in planning, setting up, cooking, serving, volunteering, and cleaning up. It was a great opportunity to socialize, to honor those who have served our country, to renew or start a new membership in VCCAA, to present scholarships, to recognize members, and to elect our new officers and board members. A special presentation was given to three long-time dancers in Madam Yu-Ling Lu's Chinese Classical Dance Troupe: Monica Lin, Kelly Tebbe, and Gracie Coulter. Their persistence, dedication, and hard work have provided us with many memorable performances. They will be greatly missed.

Other events we can look forward to this year are the Mid-Autumn Festival and the Christmas Party. Hope to see everyone there. I would like to get to know all of you better in the coming months and years. Please feel free to introduce yourself when you see me and share your ideas for making this a better organization.

Best wishes,
Grace



Happy 90th Birthday to Donna Jue!

Reports from Past Events!

Memorial Day Picnic *by Lee May Chen Little*

The VCCAA annual Memorial Day Picnic was held on Monday, May 28th at the Bob Kildee Park in Camarillo. The weather was perfect. We had around 150 participants. It was nice to see many returning members and their families and friends.

I would like to use this opportunity to express our great appreciation to the five best chefs in town for preparing this marvelous BBQ lunch. They are Dr. Frank Chieu, Frank Bell, George Ng, Richard Lu, and Wil Durham. Without their best efforts, we wouldn't have the best lunch in town that day. We are all grateful to them for their support.

Also, a big thank you to our scholarship recipients for helping with the food serving. After lunch, our Scholarship Chairperson, Louise Dilger, welcomed the 8 honorable recipients to accept their scholarships. They each gave us a brief speech about their future college or university they will attend and their intended majors. The members were very impressed with the three girls, Monica Lin, Kelly Tebbe, and Grace Coulter, who received dance scholarships. They have been dancing and participating in the VCCAA program for more than a decade. Grace Leo played a special video showing the dancers in historical performances. Congratulations and best wishes to all of our scholarship winners.

Then there came another change: Irene Sy, who has been serving in VCCAA Chinese School for 12 years, decided to retire from her position. The VCCAA retiring president Angus Simmons and new president Grace Leo together presented a special plaque and flowers to Irene to thank her for the long years of dedication and praise the wonderful job she has done with the Chinese School. Several of her past students including Alvin Little, Sarah and Christine Yim, came out to express their great memories and appreciation to her. We wish Irene Sy all the best!

Of course, the 2018 – 2019 incoming officers and directors were also announced and presented to the members. Thanks to Stella Ling for arranging the raffle prizes and the many who volunteered to cook rice and help out behind the scenes. Hope to see you all again next year! 感謝大家的參與!😊明年再相聚!❤️❤️🌟



Scholarship Recipients for 2018! *by Louise Dilger, Chair*

VCCAA is proud to announce the 2018 scholarship recipients:

Monica Lin and Kelly Tebbe each received the Lena Lee Ho \$750 Chinese Classical Dance Scholarship.

Grace Coulter received the special Michelle Lu \$750 Chinese Classical Dance Scholarship.

Brandon Duran received the \$750 Tony Chen Academic Scholarship

Rachel Wang received the \$750 Dr. Fu Kuen Lin Academic Scholarship

Jason Lu received the \$750 Yu Family Academic/Sports Scholarship

Kennard Nguyen-Tran received the \$500 Little Family Chinese Learner Scholarship

Allison Yuen received the \$500 VCAA Academic Scholarship

MEET THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

Kelly Tebbe attended Foothill Technology High School; plans to attend Boise State with an emphasis on Radiology.

Kelly has always been interested in foster care, international adopting, abusive homes and all types of art. Being realistic, she wants to study radiology to support herself first, then return to school for her other passions.

Kelly studied ballet, jazz, and Chinese Classical dancing over the last 14 years. She played piano for 7 years and the saxophone for two years. She was also served as year book editor in chief. Among her community service, she has volunteered in the emergency room at Community Memorial Hospital and was Fundraising Coordinator with a club at school.

Monica Lin attended Adolfo Camarillo High School; plans to attend UC San Diego with an emphasis on Microbiology.

In preparation for being a pharmacist, Monica actively maintains good habits in checking with current issues in science because she knows that during her lifetime science will constantly be updated and changing with new discoveries. She's enrolled at Moorpark College in a summer course to expand her knowledge in biology. As a volunteer at her local hospital, she has had first hand exposure and experience on the intricacies of the coordination of different departments and their responsibilities, types of tests prescribed, and how doctors adjust to each patient.

Grace Thanh Coulter attended Ventura High School; plans to attend San Diego State as a Business Management major.

Grace hopes to study abroad in her birth country, Vietnam. She hopes to apply her business management skills to foster connections between a U.S. company that has significant investment in Vietnam.

Grace has dedicated her student life to her academics and extra-curricular activities. She is on the varsity tennis team, is involved with the school theatre department, and has training in acting and vocals. She mentors in the leadership program and has received numerous academic awards. Among her community service, Grace has been involved with the Rotary Club, National Charity League, and the Young and Brave Club, supporting youth battling cancer.

Brandon Duran attended Adolfo Camarillo High School; plans to attend the University of Portland.

Brandon has aspirations of becoming either an investigative journalist or a political advisor. One day we may well see his name in the political arena in Washington D.C. Brandon would also like to work within the inner cities advocating for social justice initiatives. He's likely to apply his Spanish skills working with D.C.'s Latino population to bridge the gaps between communities.



As a student, Brandon has earned numerous academic awards, has leadership experience, is a published sports writer, a tutor, and a varsity soccer player. His community service includes meal deliveries to local churches and the planning/designing and installation of rain barrels on campus.

Rachel Wang attended Rancho Campana High School; plans to attend UCLA as a Biology major.

Rachel's first interest in medicine originated in 7th grade when she dissected a sheep heart. This activity allowed for the transition of abstract book learning to first-hand knowledge of the anatomy of the organ and tissues. She volunteered in an emergency room which helped to expand her knowledge even further. Rachel's ambition is to find a cure for Alzheimer's and 3D print organs. She plans to be part of the science revolution.

Rachel has received too many numerous awards to name. Her extra-curricular activities include tutoring, tennis, and playing the flute and piccolo in the Conejo Valley Orchestra. Community service includes emergency room volunteering, working with visually impaired children, and numerous hours spent on other activities. It's a wonder that she had time to devote to those exceptional school grades.

Jason Lu attended Newbury Park High School; will attend Pomona College, on a swim scholarship with an emphasis in Psychology.

Jason found a love for biology and has completed a four-year science program at Newbury Park High School. His goal is to become a psychiatrist.

Jason has spent 10 years as a competitive swimmer, winning numerous awards in the various swim styles. Despite the number of hours that he must put into his swimming, Jason found time to be involved with the Habitat for Humanity and is a member of a chamber choir and men's chorus.

Kennard Nguyen-Tran attended Rio Mesa High School; plans to attend Moorpark College in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance.

Jason's parents both fled from China to Vietnam during the Sino-Japanese war. His native language is Vietnamese, and English is his second language. Jason's goal in learning the Chinese language is to become trilingual so that he may apply his business expertise in the financial world.

His learning process not only includes textbook learning and speaking but immersing himself by watching Chinese dramas with subtitles. With his new found Chinese language skills, he plans to travel to China and explore his heritage.

Allison Ting Yuan attended Santa Susana High School in Simi Valley; will attend UC Berkeley as an Engineering major.

Allison's dream career is to become a Senior Mechanical Engineer Manager. Her wish is to inspire a future generation of women to excel in such a male-dominated field by promoting them to actively participate in the S.T.E.M. field.

Allison's application included three pages listing her academic awards, her dancing, piano, martial arts, and community services. She is indeed a well-rounded accomplished young woman with high aspirations to empower all women.



Dear Members,
I'd like to extend my gratitude to you for granting me the Tony Chen scholarship. I appreciate the faith you have shown in me as a student and a person. Your organization is dedicated to a great cause, and I wish it the best.

Best regards,
Brandon Duran

NEXT STOP:
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Dear Mr. Ho,

Thank you so much for your immense generosity and ~~valuable~~ support in us dancers as we continue our journey onto college. I'm sorry for your loss, and although I never got to know your wife very well, I'm certain she lived a very beautiful and joyous life with you being there for her. Thank you for all of the spectacular pictures from each of our dance performances. Whenever I flip through my picture album, I remember and thank you for capturing all of the little moments and happy

memories that us dancers had. Your continuous dedication and kindness has left me speechless, and I am forever grateful for all the numerous unexpected but wonderful gifts. Thanks so much again!

P.S. My mom replaced her old mug with the personalized ones you gave us as soon as she saw it. We both appreciate all that you've done very much.

Sincerely,
Monico Lin

Upcoming Events!

Mid-Autumn Festival *by Annie Wang*

When: Saturday, Sept 15, 2018 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 Angus Simmons*

Sign Up for Fall VCCAA Chinese School Classes!

The VCCAA Board is excited to let newsletter readers know that we are ready for the fall semester and will be offering our first fall class on September 9, 2018. The fall semester will have seventeen sessions running through January 20, 2019. The spring semester will run from February 3, 2019 through June 9, 2019.

We will have classes for all ages from kindergarten to Adult Conversation, and extra-curricular cultural appreciation activities. Classes will be held on Sunday afternoons from 2:30-4:30PM. We have a wonderful new location, and wonderful hosts at the Camarillo Boys and Girls Club, at 1500 Temple Avenue in Camarillo. Classroom space at the Boys & Girls Club is very generous and will give us the flexibility to grow and adjust class sizes as necessary. Please check out our new application form on the VCCAA website.

We don't yet know how many students we will have for the fall semester, but we appear to be generating good early interest. A group of VCCAA members had a good time staffing our booth (see photo below) at the Camarillo Fiesta to get the word out about our school and its new location. Over a quite warm weekend, we managed to meet quite a few interested people, so



we will see how many new applications we receive. Hopefully all of you will help us by letting people know about the school.

Shuqin Zhao has done a great job lining up teachers for all our classes, and we will be meeting over the summer to make sure that we have a curriculum that makes sense, and our students know what textbooks to purchase. Our basic principle is to match our teaching with the California common core content. We want our students to learn according to standards that will be of maximum utility when they move on to study Chinese in other schools and educational institutions. But most of all, we want the school to be fun for our students!

Angus Simmons will be hosting a party on the evening of September 2 (a week before the fall semester starts) so students, parents,



teachers and school well-wishers can get to know each other. Please let Angus know if you hear of anyone who is interested in our classes but has not yet made up their mind to sign-up. We want to invite them to the party so that they can get a better idea about what our school will be like!

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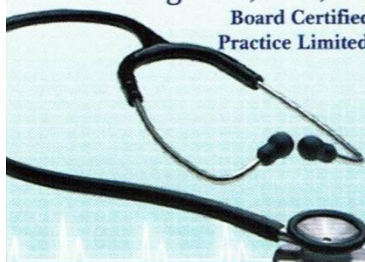
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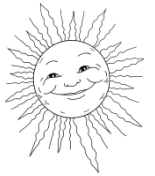
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Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
Mid-Autumn Festival	Saturday, September 15, 2018 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	Sunday, September 9, 2018 at 2:30-4:30pm	Boys & Girls Club Camarillo 1500 Temple Ave Camarillo, CA 93010	Angus Simmons: (805) 689-8108 Shuqin Zhao: (805) 338-1013
Christmas Party	Sunday, December 15, 2018 at 6:00pm	Rancho Rosal School 3535 Village at the Park Drive Camarillo, CA 93012	Lee May Little: (805) 484-5222



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