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Ventura County Chinese
American Association
VCCAA



February 2015

Newsletter

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www.vccaa.org

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VCCAA Newsletter

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Greetings from the President

The influenza season is upon us. This viral illness has a typical peak season during the winter months in the Northern Hemisphere. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported recently that an influenza epidemic has started in the Northeast through the Midwest and has arrived in California. A good number of local physicians have seen an uptick in flu cases in the past weeks.

The predominant strain of the influenza virus for this season is H3N2 which has mutated since the vaccine was manufactured early in 2014. Consequently according to the CDC, the current vaccine only offers a 23% protection against the flu this year. This will make the use of antiviral influenza medications more important for those afflicted with the flu. These medications are most effective when taken within two days of onset of flu symptoms which may include fever, muscle aches, debilitation, chest congestion, headaches and coughing. In the appropriate clinical setting, your personal physician may even prescribe the antiviral medication ahead of your office visit.

Measles is also back in the news. As of this date, the number of infected patients is close to 90, mostly in California linked to visitors to Disneyland. Measles is a highly contagious respiratory infection which can cause serious complications such as pneumonia and encephalitis. The disease can be prevented by vaccination. Children and adults without immunity to measles are urged to receive the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine as soon as possible. The most effective strategy to contain this epidemic is through vaccination to prevent further spread of this virus.

On a less somber note, the Chinese New Year will be here shortly. We are welcoming the arrival of the Year of the Ram. According to popular belief, folks born in this zodiac sign are polite, gentle, artistic, empathetic and creative. Once again, the Ventura County Chinese American Association will jointly host a Chinese New Year celebration with the Camarillo Public Library. We are expecting a record crowd, so do come early to secure a choice seat for the performance at the library on February 21st.

Under the stellar leadership of Brian Nomi, our Christmas party was a great success. We had over one hundred attendees who were enthusiastic participants in the silent auction to raise fund for our Chinese school. The audience was treated to an elegant performance by Ms. Yu-ling Lu's VCCAA Chinese Dance Troupe and both Eastern and Western melodies from the Thousand Oaks Chinese Music Ensemble.

On behalf of the VCCAA board of directors, I would like to extend a wish for a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year to everyone in our community.

George Yu, MD
President, 2014-2015



VCCAA Annual Scholarship Program *by Louise Dilger, Chairperson*

Attention High School seniors. It is time to consider applying for one of our three academic scholarships. The application form may be obtained from our website: vccaa.org. Recipients of scholarships must show academic excellence, have a well-rounded curriculum and demonstrate promoting Chinese culture. Two essays are required to help in the selection process.

This year, we have two new scholarships offered by our members. Here are the additional criteria that are expressed by the families.

The Little Family Scholarship (\$500) aims to encourage the speaking of Chinese as a second language. It is limited to persons who **do not** speak Chinese as their primary language. Applicants should write a short essay (in English or Chinese) on "The Process of Learning Chinese". Finalists will be interviewed and asked to express their essays in Chinese.

The Yu Family Scholarship (\$750) recipient will meet the requirements of the other VCCAA scholarships, including evidence of academic excellence and promotion of Chinese culture, as well as distinguished accomplishment in either music, dance or athletics. Applicants should list any awards or honors received with a brief description as well as the date of the honor/award. An audiovisual supplement may be included but should be ten minutes or less in length. Applicants should choose only one of the above fields for consideration.



Deadline for Applications: March 31, 2015

Christmas Party *by Brian Nomi*

The 2014 VCCAA Christmas Party took place on Dec. 13 at Rancho Rosal School in Camarillo. Approximately 120 people were in attendance. The group enjoyed dinner, and the performances by Yu-Ling Lu's Dance Group (Monica Lin, Kelly Tebbe, Lesley Smarinsky, Grace Coulter among the older girls // Naomi Zhang, Judy Nomi, Jayme Smarinsky, Jackie Zhao among the younger girls). We had a sing-a-long of some Christmas music. Finally, Santa Claus came on stage and gave bags of toys to all the good girls and boys.



Many photos by Lloyd Ho may be viewed online at www.vccaa.org (<http://www.vccaa.org/pictures/xmas14/index.html>).

Thanks to all who attended, performed, or helped with the setup beforehand and cleaning afterwards!!



Upcoming Events!

Chinese Language School – Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration *by Irene Sy*

When: Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Where: Camarillo Library, 4101 East Las Posas Road, Camarillo, CA 93010

Contact: Irene Sy, (805)482-4765



2015

Happy New Year!

The year of the Ram 4712 marks the 6th year Chinese School has been collaborating with the Camarillo City Library to bring everyone in the community an eventful and festive celebration of the Lunar Year. Here I wish everyone San Yang Kai Tai (三羊开泰), Yang Yang De Yi (羊羊得意), Cai Yun Heng Tong (财运亨通), Xin Xiang Shi Cheng (心想事成). The year of the Green Ram will bring us good luck, energy and happiness. We wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous Year of the Ram, 2015.



Our students will be participating in the Chinese New Year celebration held at the Camarillo Library by helping with the craft tables. Please come or email me if you are able to help setup at 9:00AM or take down at 4:00PM or any time between 1:00PM to 4:00PM. We are in need of volunteers to help with the event. This Lunar New Year celebration will feature a Tai Chi demonstration, acrobatics, folk dances, music and the songs of Mr. Nabil Huening, who is also known as 'Da Shan' of America. Mr. Huening speaks fluent Mandarin, and has appeared in many Chinese CCTV shows and lunar celebrations. We are honored to have him sing for us in our celebration. Please bring your friends and family to the Camarillo Public Library on Saturday, Feb 21, 2015, to share in the celebration. Our stage program will begin at 1:30PM. On Friday February 20, students of the Chinese Language School will be celebrating Lunar New Year by making festive Jiaozi (dumpling). You are welcome to join us at our school site at 7:00PM to share our joy for the festive season. We look forward to a wonderful year of the Ram.

羊年快乐!

Easter Egg Hunt *by Lesley Sule*

When: Saturday, April 4, 2015, 12:30pm

Where: Ling Ranch, Somis

Contact: Lesley Sule, (805) 407-7765, Hillary Ling, (805) 386-4188

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt is on! Join us at the Ling Ranch for food, games and the hunt.

For each child participating, please bring:

- 1 Easter basket and
- 2 dozen filled plastic Easter eggs.

When you arrive, please bring your filled eggs to Lesley so the Easter Bunny will have time to hide everything well before the hunt starts. We will be providing a simple lunch for all and games for the kids. We look forward to seeing all of you then!





2015
Feb 21

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Year of the Ram**

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Hidden Information Describing Pre-Modern China/Asia in Modern English *by Hendon Harris*

Sometimes our language and the accepted definitions of words formed over hundreds of years or more provide an insight into what our ancestors were thinking when they used those words many years ago. The words I want to highlight here are "Orient", "Oriental", "Orientation", "Oriented" and "Disoriented". Orient is a word we inherited from Latin meaning "East". All European languages from ages past have had some form of this word in their language. Over time the use of this word has evolved. The current dictionary definition says this word also means "East Asia".

However, we know this wasn't always the case because recently it has meant all of Asia including Istanbul, Turkey. Turkey is one of Asia's most western locations. We know this because of the fame of The Orient Express which was a company that connected Paris, France and Istanbul with a luxury train service. Therefore, it's reasonable to believe that the word "Orient" in recent times did not refer to just East Asia but to the entire continent of Asia. Therefore, the word "Oriental" does not refer specifically to just those of Han Dynasty Chinese ethnicity but to all people from Asia--The Orient.

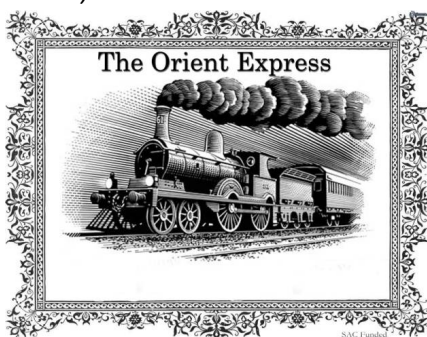


Today we are told not to use the word "Oriental" since it has come to be considered a racial slur by people of Han Chinese background because it has sometimes been used negatively in referring to them specifically. Aside from the fact that racial slurs are only used by ignorant and insensitive people, is this even the correct word to use to describe just one of the numerous cultures that consider Asia their ancestral home? Let's consider what the words "Oriented", "Disoriented" and "Orientation" mean in English today.

To be Oriented today means that you know your way around. You know where things and places are located. You know where you are and how to get to where you need to go. Disoriented on the other hand means just the opposite. Disoriented means you are confused and most likely lost. You do not know where you are or how

to get to where you need to go. Orientation is another word commonly used in the English language. Orientation is the education you receive to become oriented and know where the places are you need to get to and how to get there. When a new student goes to college they are required to go to Freshman Orientation so they can be taught where the places, classrooms and campus services are located that they will need to use. Likewise, our newly elected Members of Congress go to Orientation in Washington DC to learn Washington protocol, where they need to show up and when and where their new offices are located. Understanding what these words mean today from a root word that originally simply meant East, evolved into a word that also meant the Continent of Asia and then on to describing people (Orientals) who have better information on geography and specific locations leads one to assume that perhaps the people of Asia were more knowledgeable regarding geography and navigation than western cultures.

Being one of the few at this time in history (in spite of much evidence that indicates the veracity of this thesis) that believe that Asians throughout much of history up to the early 15th century were ahead of Europe in geographical knowledge, map-making and navigational techniques this word definition used to describe the people of Asia is particularly significant because it gives insight into what our ancient ancestors were apparently thinking and when they used these words to describe these specific people. Throughout history there have lived in China numerous brilliant men who knew much about mapping the stars in the Heavens as well as mapping the Earth. On that list are men like Zhang Heng, Phei Hsiu and Jia Dan, who although are not well known worldwide today, will someday be seen as scientists foremost in their time period amongst all ages and all countries. If there had been a Nobel Peace Prize in their time I believe they would have won it. Time and space here does



not give me the opportunity to tell you all that these men accomplished.

However, for those interested this information is as close as your Internet provider. Google their names for their achievements. Zhang Heng lived in Han Dynasty China during the first century. Although none of his maps have survived much has been written about his work. This work included detailed grid maps, improvement in the calculations of Pi and improving time keeping technology. All of these features are important in the calculation of longitude. It's my opinion that Zhang Heng was the probable originator of latitude and longitude and the "mysterious" complex compass calculations that showed up in 13th through 16th century Europe. Phei Hsiu in the 3rd century followed up on Zhang Heng's work and greatly advanced grid mapping and the use of Relief Maps. Jia Dan in the 8th century Tang Dynasty was a government official and geographer who wrote a detailed account of how to sail from China to the Persian Gulf. He also described in detail the lighthouses at the Straits of Hormuz which leads into the gulf. The South China Sea and the Indian Ocean were a "beehive" of oceanic transportation from at least the 8th to the 15th century and undoubtedly long before. "Mapping the Chinese and Islamic Worlds-- Cross-Cultural Exchange in Pre-Modern Asia" by Hyunhee Park published in 2012 is a great source of information on this topic. Remember it wasn't until 1498 that Vasco da Gama from Portugal showed up in Calcutta, India as the first European to show up in the Indian Ocean in a successful effort to become part of the lucrative commercial trade that had been going on there for centuries before his arrival. I mention this to demonstrate that Asians did at that time have far greater knowledge of directions, mapping and navigation. So for Europeans at that time to describe Asians as Orientals and for that root word to evolve into meaning a people who had a better sense of direction than people from Europe fits with this theory and what scholars are now discovering to be true about the people of Asia at that time.

More Pictures from the Christmas Party 2014 - Thank you all for participating!





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The Ventura County
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Dance Troupe

is currently welcoming new dancers!



All classes are currently open

Sunday	9:30am - 11:00am (Intermediate)
Monday	4:30pm - 6:00pm (Advanced)
Wednesday	4:30pm - 6:00pm (Beginner)

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

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Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
Chinese New Year Celebration	Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 1:00 pm	Camarillo Public Library, 4101 East Las Posas Road, Camarillo, 93010	Irene Sy, 805.482.4765
Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 4, 2015, at 12:30 pm	Ling Ranch, Somis	Lesley Sule, 805.407.7765 Hillary Ling, 805.386.4188



Year of the Ram
4712