



Ventura County Chinese American Association VCCAA



Newsletter

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www.vccaa.org

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www.vccahs.org

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VCCAA Newsletter

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Greetings from the President

Dear Friends,

Happy late Spring Greetings! We all had a wonderful time at the Ling Ranch Easter Party! What a perfect spot to enjoy the arrival of good weather! The piñata put up a noble fight this year despite some strong early blows from the youngest children. But, after about fifteen minutes, it yielded up its treasure. Hillary and Stella were so generous with the egg provisions that it appeared as though every young person went home with a very full basket. We thank Hillary and Stella for being such gracious hosts, and Lesley Ling for everything she does to put this event together year in and year out. The VCCAA flags flew high!

Your VCCAA Board and the VCCAHS are hard at work preparing for the Mayor Bill Soo Hoo commemoration dinner with weekly meetings until the May 21st event. As you all know, he was the first person of Chinese heritage to become a mayor in California, and 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of that historical event. The dinner will include something for everyone; Chinese banquet fare, choral, dance and instrumental performances, lion dancing, historical slides, disco dancing, and a cash bar. There are still tickets available. With California State Treasurer John Chiang as our keynote speaker, I hope you will spread the word to friends and neighbors so that we fill the Oxnard Room at the Oxnard Performing Arts & Convention Center (PACC). It is particularly fitting that we are holding the event there because Mayor Soo played a key role in establishing it when he was mayor – in fact, he wanted to be sure that Oxnard had an auditorium with the best acoustics in Ventura County at the time.

As part of the Mayor Soo Hoo celebration, there will be an exhibition of his life and times, which will be available for viewing in the ground floor corridor off of the lobby at the Oxnard Library from May 1-31. Louise Dilger has led a hardworking group to put this together, and it will be well worth seeing, featuring Mayor Soo Hoo's gavel, various ceremonial awards and keys to cities, as well as many photos of Mayor Soo Hoo in action. Historian Linda Bentz will also conduct a walking tour of the old Chinese section of Oxnard on May 21st at 3:00 PM. The tour is free and open to anyone who wishes to join. All you need to do is meet Linda at 730 S. Oxnard Boulevard, which is the site of the former "Mama Soo Hoo's Restaurant."

Grace Leo, Yun Chao, Suqin Zhao and other board members have done a lot of hands on coordination work at the PACC, but there is room for more volunteers, particularly on the day of the event. For high school students thinking about their college entrance resumes, this is a great opportunity to demonstrate community volunteer spirit! Please contact Grace Leo to express your interest.

As usual, after the work of the Scholarship Committee, we have a great slate of scholarship recipients to be awarded at the Memorial Day Picnic. I am pleased to let you know that Lixin Durborow has represented us at a meeting with the Ventura County Election Office aimed at reaching out to a variety of bilingual voters to make sure they have a chance to register to vote and otherwise participate in the electoral process by serving as election officers. Yongping and I are planning to visit Shaoxing May 24-26 to attend their International Festival for their Friendship and Sister Cities (Camarillo is one of them). If anyone is still interested in this activity, please get in touch with me for further details. Finally, I am pleased to say that we have ten new families who have signed up as VCCAA members since we put out the Directory. I know you will make them feel welcome when you meet them at events.

Best Wishes for a Happy Summer,
Angus Simmons
President 2015-16

Chinese New Year Celebration *by Irene Sy*

As the year of the Monkey made its way to 2016, the Monkey King and the Iron Fan Princess ushered in a wonderful New Year with their spectacular performances on February 13, 2016 at the Camarillo Chinese New Year Celebration. This year marked the 7th year of the citywide Chinese New Year Celebration well attended by over two thousand attendees. We are honored to have these artists from Beijing here to celebrate this special occasion with us. The makeup artist from the group and Jackie Chen studied martial arts together from



the same master shifu. I would like to express my greatest gratitude to Ms. Christine and Joanne from the California Institute for Chinese Performing Arts to help make the Beijing Opera performance possible. It was an eye opening and authentic cultural performance well applauded and received by the audience.

The Westlake Symphony Orchestra opened up our celebration with a melodic Chinese New Year song. Young audiences enjoyed their TaiChi lesson from Mr. David Chang after his Taichi performance. Folk dancers from Mrs. Yuling Lu's Dance Troupe with their colorful dazzling costumes had the attention of our attendees. Surely, the roaring drum beats and sound of the gongs and cymbals brought out our Lions from the Camarillo Kungfu Club which brought the celebration to its climax. That was a beautiful sunny day filled with laughter, enjoyment, celebrations, friendships, and togetherness. Another great successful year of Chinese New Year Celebration in collaboration with the Camarillo City Library.

Lastly, I would like to honor the following people who helped make this event possible: Our emcees Sandra Sosa and Mason King, our audio engineer/technician, Mr. Justin Sy, the dancers from Mrs. Lu's dance troupe, the lion dancers, Ms. Jackie Sittinger and students from the Rio Mesa and Camarillo High Schools with the craft tables and setup, Mr. and Mrs. Richard

Lu with Calligraphy, Mrs. Lee-Mei Little with souvenir booths, Mr. Angus Simmons and Dr. YP Chen, Dr. Ling, the VCCAA Board members and everyone who helped in the event. Most importantly, our collaborators, Ms. Barbara Wolfe, Mary Goldberg and their team from the Camarillo Library!

May the year of the MONKEY bring you wealth, prosperity, health, and happiness!

猴年大吉!



Easter Egg Hunt *by Lesley Sule*



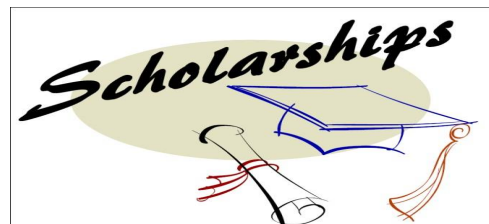
It was a beautiful Easter Saturday afternoon at the Ling Ranch in Somis! More than 20 kids and their parents came together for a beautiful day full of fun games, food, and, of course, a fantastic Egg Hunt. It was a young group this year which evened the playing field. Les and Suzie Jue and their families and Edna Tanita put together a feast of corned beef and cabbage and hot dogs. Hillary and Stella Ling put together an engaging layout for everyone, featuring the Award Winning winter melon soup for everyone to enjoy.

Everyone worked so hard and it showed as the kids walked off with their Easter baskets full of loot and smiles to show it!

Thank you to all the families that participated and came to enjoy the day with us. We'll see you again next year!

Scholarship Recipients for 2016 *by Louise Dilger*

VCCAA is proud to announce the winners of our Scholarship Program. These students have excelled in academics, were involved in extra-curricular activities, community service, and were involved in sharing/enhancing of our Chinese culture within the community. It is an honor to have such outstanding leaders of tomorrow in our midst.



ETHAN CHEN	\$750 Tony Chen award
KIANNA JUE	\$750 Dr. F.K. Lin award
JESSICA YUAN	\$750 Yu Family award
LAUREL MOONEY	\$500 Little Family award

Awards are based on scholastic excellence, extra-curricular activities, community service and two essays which are part of the application process. These awards would not have been possible if not for the generosity of our club members. Please help encourage students with your donations, however large or small. It all adds up. For High School Juniors, I look forward to receiving your scholarship applications in early March of next year.

Upcoming Events!

Memorial Day Picnic *by Lee-May Little*

When: Monday, May 30, 2016 at 11:00am - 3:00 pm

Where: Bob Kildee Park Picnic Area #1

Corner of Temple and Ponderosa, in Camarillo (by Boys and Girls Club)

Contact: Lee-May Little, (805) 484-5222



Our VCCAA Memorial Day Picnic will be held on Monday, May 30, 2016 from 11:00am to 3:00pm at the Bob Kildee Park Picnic Area #1 (the picnic table area) located at the corner of Temple Ave. and Ponderosa Dr., Camarillo, CA. (next to the Boys and Girls Club). The cost will be \$8.00 for adults and \$5 for children 10 years old and

under. Lunch will be served from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. There will be drawings for door prizes.

We will be introducing our scholarship recipients and their parents at this event and listen to their plans for the future.

This is a very important event as we will also be recognizing our sponsors and life members for the year, electing and installing our new officers and officers for the youth group for the club. Members will be able to renew their memberships or others may join our club at the picnic. We would like everyone who is renewing their membership to give us a separate check or cash payment for the membership for the year which is \$25/family. Cash payments will receive a receipt for their dues renewal payment.

Hope many of you can attend our Memorial Day Picnic as it is a time to relax and get to see and meet many of our club members and their families and friends.



Chinese Language School *by Irene Sy, Principal*

Chinese School students welcomed the year of the Monkey by making dumplings, and wishing everyone a happy New Year in Chinese “Jixiang Hua”, like “Gongxi FaCai”, “Wanshiruyi”, etc. on February 5. Everyone received a Red Envelope (Hong Bao) and wrote New Year couplets on red paper with the help of Mr. Richard Lu. It was a fun-filled celebration with all students, parents, faculty, and the Mayor of Camarillo, Mr. Mike Morgan.



The Chinese Language School had its Speech Contest on April 22. All students had practiced very hard for this competition. Ms. Dolly Cheng and Mrs. Little accepted our invitation to be our honorable judges along with our teachers on the panel.



Our kindergarteners learned the famous characters in “Journey to the West” and recited a chant about the characters. Level One to Level Five students wrote short paragraphs on their selected topic and shared them with our judges. Heather from our Conversation Class did a beautiful presentation about herself. Each of the participants received a participation medallion and winners received ribbons for their respective prizes.

The winners are:

Kindergarten:

First Prize – Brandon Cho, Second Prize – Sebastian Bond, Third Prize – Edward Park.

Level 1:

First Prize – Kaden Le, Second Prize – Sadie Le, Third Prize – Marisol Chan.

Level 2:

First Prize – Mason King, Second Prize – Jason Fung, Third Prize – Elena Thomas, Cary Chaput.

Level 5:

First Prize – Sebastian Mireles, Second Prize – Huy Nguyen, Ryan Mak, Arlen King; Third Prize – Bryan Strasser.



Our 2015-2016 school year will conclude on June 10. Early registration for the 2016-2017 school year will begin on June 10. Please email me if you are interested to enroll your children or grandchildren in the Chinese school. We appreciate your help in spreading the word and encourage more people joining our school. Registration forms will be available for download either from the VCCAA.ORG or the VCCLS.WIKISPACES.COM website after June 10, 2016. Our next school year will begin on September 2.

We will be looking for more teachers for our 2016-2017 school year. If you are interested or know of someone who is passionate about sharing their Chinese language and culture knowledge, please contact me via email at: vccls93012@gmail.com or irenecsy@aol.com.



We look forward to your participation and enrollment and thank you for your support.

Upcoming Cultural Events and Exhibits

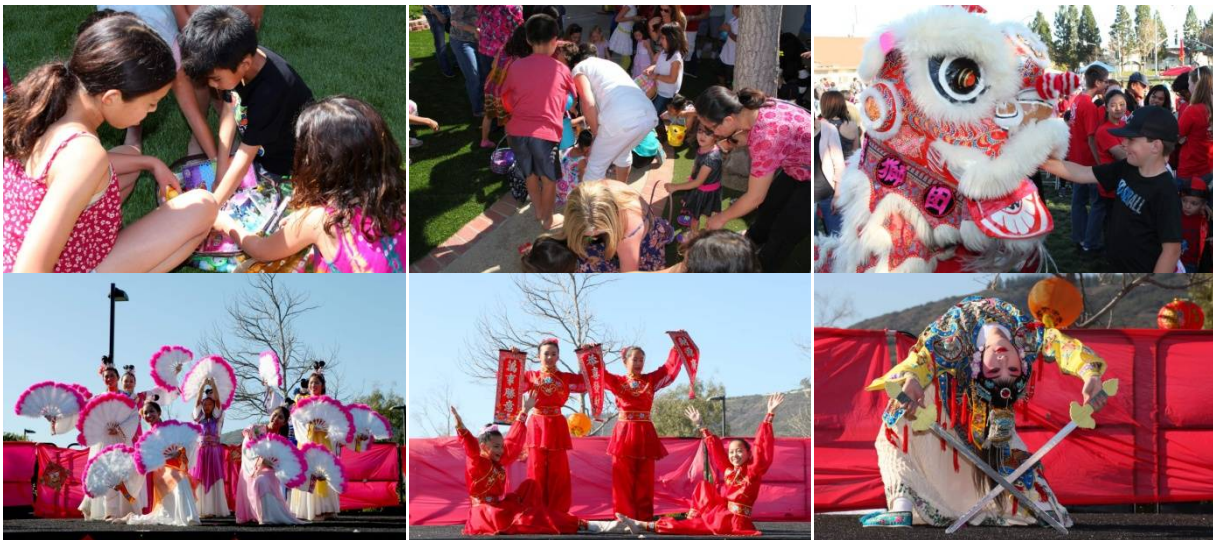
Bill Soo Hoo Library Display: Downtown Oxnard at the Library on (A Street and 3rd Street), there is currently a display of memorabilia and information on former Mayor Oxnard Bill Soo Hoo. Please stop by and check it out, it is located inside the library in the hall leading to the Children's section and will be available until the end of May.

An Evening Honoring Oxnard Mayor Bill Soo hoo: An American Success Story: On May 21, 2016 from 6:00-8:30pm at the Oxnard Performing Arts & Convention Center, 800 Hobson Way in Oxnard, we will be celebrating and honoring former Oxnard Mayor Bill Soo Hoo. He was the first Oxnard-born mayor of the city and the first person of Chinese heritage to become a mayor in California. Tickets are required to attend, for more information or if you have questions please contact Angus Simmons at (805) 689-8108.

"The Benefits of Chinese Medicine" Seminar: On Sunday, May 8th, 2:00-3:30pm at the Camarillo Public Library, Dr. Yongping Chen will be holding a talk on the benefits of Chinese Medicine in conjunction with Pacific America Heritage Month. Please stop by and check it out!

China Week 2016: During the week of May 7-14 in Los Angeles, there will be a week-long series of events called China Week 2016. For more information visit Chinaweek.LA.

More Pictures from the Chinese New Year Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt 2016 - Thank you all for participating!



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Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
Memorial Day Picnic	Monday, May 30, 2016 at 11:00 am	Bob Kildee Park Picnic Area #1, the Corner of Temple and Ponderosa, in Camarillo, (next to Boys and Girls club)	Lee-May Little, 805.484.5222



Year of the Monkey
4714