



# Ventura County Chinese American Association VCCAA



## Newsletter

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### Web Sites

VCCAA

[www.vccaa.org](http://www.vccaa.org)

Language School

<https://vccls.wikispaces.com>

Historical Society

[www.vccahs.org](http://www.vccahs.org)

### Newsletter Editor

Alvin Little

\* \* \* \*

VCCAA Newsletter

P.O. Box 806

Camarillo, CA 93011

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### Greetings from the President

Dear Friends:

I hope that most of you had the opportunity to enjoy our 8th Chinese New Year celebration at the Camarillo Library and welcome in the Year of the Rooster! The traditional deities in their resplendent costumes mingled with the audience to welcome them, followed by Camarillo Mayor Jan McDonald's opening remarks. Council members Mike Morgan and Tony Trembley were also among the enthusiastic crowd. Although there was rain for a week before the event, and it rained the day after, the weather cooperated for just long enough to make for a perfect outdoor celebration.

As usual, VCCAA Vice President Irene Sy did a wonderful job of arranging the program and MCs Addison Marcum and Sebastian Mireles led us through the program in their lively and amusing style. Yuling Lu's dancers were spectacular and the sound of Suqin Zhao's Voice of Thousand Oaks Choir filled the air. Ms. Xin Zhao's artistic artistic taiqi was captivating and Wayne Huey's Red Panda Acrobatics amazed the audience with his seemingly impossible contortions. Sifoo Ling's Kung Fu Club provided us with a spectacular finale of sword play and lion dancing prowess. Kites flew outside before and after the performances, and inside the library Yun Chao's kites hung gracefully from the Camarillo Library's ceiling. Many interested attendees lined up to learn about calligraphy and Chinese traditional crafts or take pictures with traditional Chinese costumes. With the City and the Library's support and the hard work of many volunteers, we were able to put on a program that gave us a chance to share Chinese New Year's traditions with many, many of our Ventura County neighbors. We are so fortunate to have the wonderful team at the Camarillo Library as our partners in putting on this celebration.

I was also pleased to see that the Voice of Thousand Oaks troupe was able to perform at the Camarillo Health Center and that Irene was also able to organize enjoyable Chinese New Year events at our Chinese School and for the Chinese language classes at Rio Mesa High School.

The Historical Society has been working to put together a walking tour of Oxnard's China Alley, and VCCA Historical Society George Yu, and Historian Linda Bentz have set June 24th as the date. Linda Bentz will be the lead presenter, and she will be able to draw on a great documentary video edited by Yun Chao. The walk will move from the Golden Chicken Inn to Heritage Square where Linda will talk and the video will be shown. Among other historical attractions, CSUCI Professor Scott has agreed to re-construct a fan-tan table, and I hear we are organizing a few other re-enactors. I am confident this will be an entertaining and educational afternoon.

The Board has also been thinking about ways to improve and expand our Chinese School, however, we need your help! We have developed a questionnaire to solicit your opinions about how to do this, and will circulate it to VCCAA members. We would like to build a stronger sense of community around the school's scheduled lessons, and hope you will take the time to answer the questionnaire that appears in this month's newsletter so the Board will get a good sense of your ideas and advice.

We are always looking for new volunteers to serve on the Board. We will be swearing in a new Board at the Memorial Day Picnic, including Jin Xin and Dolly Lee. I hope you will all join me in thanking my colleagues on the Board for all of their hard work. It takes people willing to give their time, energy, and ideas unselfishly in order to carry out a robust series of activities year-round.

We enjoyed a fabulous Easter Party at the Ling Family Ranch on April 15th. The pinatas are getting tougher every year, but our kids were up to the task! I saw many well-filled baskets as they were leaving with broad smiles on their faces. The attendance at the picnic is a great reminder that families grow up in VCCAA, and then bring their own children. So it was a wonderful three generation celebration, and we thank Hillary, Stella, and Lesley for all of the hard work and love that they put into preparing for the event not just this year, but every year!

I can hardly believe that Memorial Day is around the corner. I look forward to seeing you all on May 29th!

Best regards,

Angus Simmons

## Christmas Party *by Brian Nomi*

The 2016 VCCAA Christmas Party took place on Dec. 10th at Rancho Rosal School's auditorium in Camarillo. Approximately 150 people were in attendance. The Emcees were Addison Marcum and Sebastian Mireles. The group enjoyed a potluck dinner, and many fine performances.

The first act was special music by UPTOWN - Mike Harris, Mike Harold, and George Ashie. This was followed by Yu-Ling Lu's Dance Group (Grace Coulter, Lesley Smarinsky, Kelly Tebbe among the older girls // Naomi Zhang, Judy Nomi, Jayme Smarinsky amongst the younger girls).

Shuqin Zhao led the Thousand Oaks Chinese Music Ensemble // The Voice of Thousand Oaks to perform several pieces of Christmas and Chinese music. The group performed both instrumental music and vocal pieces.

Finally, Santa Claus came on stage and gave bags of toys to all the girls and boys.

Over a hundred very nice photos of this event are posted online. Lloyd Ho's photography work may be viewed online at <http://www.vccaa.org> (<http://vccaa.org/pictures/xmas16/index.html>)

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





## Chinese New Year Celebration *by Irene Sy*

It was a beautiful sunny day on February 4th for our 8th Chinese New Year celebration in collaboration with the Camarillo Library. The rain took a little break to help us with a fabulous start to welcome the Year of the Rooster. The highlights of the 2017 Chinese New Year Celebration program were Wayne Huey of Red Panda Acrobatics and our popular lion dance by the Camarillo Lion Dance Club. The voice of Thousand Oaks

ushered in the festive season with a couple of signature Chinese New Year songs. The award winning Taichi expert Ms. Xin Zhao demonstrated this traditional martial art with energy and power. Mrs. Yuling Lu's beautiful and graceful dancers received much applause and admiration from our audience as usual. It was a wonderful day for this successful event enjoyed by over 1200 attendees. I would like to thank all those who had helped to make this another successful event including the CNY committee from the Camarillo Public Library and the



VCCAA, our members and their families, students of the Adolfo Camarillo and Rio Mesa High Schools, the Kiwanis, Girl Scouts, Justin Sy with sound and audio, and all other volunteers. Most of all, it was our honor to have the Camarillo mayor to deliver a welcome speech for the event. Our marvelous emcees, Sebastian Mireles and Addison Marcum did a wonderful job presenting our performers and coordinating the programs to ensure its smooth delivery. It was a job well done!

Our craft tables were well patronized and drew the

attention of many children who enjoyed making lanterns, writing Chinese characters, and coloring on their selected New Year sheets. Dr. Hillary Ling, Dr. Yongping Chen and Mr. Richard Lu's calligraphy table had many content visitors walking off with their Chinese names written on elegant red scrolls. Patrons to our Chinese souvenirs tables chose their favorite gifts from Mrs. Little, and took turns taking pictures with traditional Chinese costumes. The celebration concluded under the roaring drum beats and cymbals brought by the lion dancers of the Camarillo Kung Fu Club.



This was another successful celebration for Chinese New Year. I would like to express my greatest gratitude to our donors and those who helped make it possible. May the year of the Rooster bring you wealth, prosperity, and good health!

敬祝鸡年吉祥!

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## 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!

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## Chinese Language School *by Irene Sy*

Chinese School students welcomed the year of the Rooster by making dumplings, doing Chinese New Year crafts, sharing New Year stories, and wishing everyone a happy New Year in Chinese "Jixiang Hua", like "Gongxi FaCai", "Wanshiruyi", etc. on January 27, New Year's Eve. Everyone received a Red Envelope (Hong Bao) and sang Chinese New Year songs. It was a fun-filled evening celebration with all students, parents, and faculty. Everyone enjoyed the celebration, participated in the festivities, and had a great time.



The Chinese Language School will be having its annual Speech Contest on May 12th. All students will be presenting their best piece that evening. Please come by the Pleasant Valley Recreation District that evening to cheer on our contestants and celebrate their achievements. If you are interested to be on our panel of judges, please contact me at [irenecsy@aol.com](mailto:irenecsy@aol.com).

Our 2016-2017 school year will conclude on June 9th. Early registration for the 2017-2018 school year will begin on June 9th. Please email me if you are interested in enrolling your children or grandchildren in the Chinese School. We appreciate your help in spreading the word to help with our enrollment. Registration forms will be available for download either from the [WWW.VCCAA.ORG](http://WWW.VCCAA.ORG) website or the [VCCLS.WIKISPACES.COM](http://VCCLS.WIKISPACES.COM) website in July. Our next school year will begin on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.

We are in need of teachers for our 2017-2018 school year. Please contact me If you are interested in being part of our team or let me know if you know of someone who is passionate and interested in becoming part of our dedicated teaching team. My email address is: [vccls93012@gmail.com](mailto:vccls93012@gmail.com) or [irenecsy@aol.com](mailto:irenecsy@aol.com).



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

## Upcoming Events!

### Memorial Day Picnic *by Lee-May Little*

**When:** Monday, May 29, 2017 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 29, 2017 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.



Boys and Girls Club).



## Kristopher Toy Wong - In Memoriam (1949 - 2017)



Kristopher Toy Wong was born in Fresno on Jan. 28, 1949 to Toy and Eleanor Wong. He graduated from Edison High School in 1967, and earned a BA in Biology and a California Teaching Credential from California State University, Fresno, in 1975. Later he earned Master's Degrees in both Counseling and Administration from California Lutheran University. He worked in the Oxnard Union High School District for 30 years, first as a teacher, then as a counselor at his beloved Rio Mesa High School (Once a Spartan, always a Spartan), and finally as an Assistant Principal at Channel Islands and Rio Mesa High Schools. He was married in 1977 and is

survived by his wife, Athol, and their children, Brendon, married to Laura and father of Francis; and Bevin, married to Mark and mother of Camden. He is survived also by his siblings, Carla Wong Gee, Neil Wong, and Toynette Wong Johnson and her husband John, as well as by six nieces, two nephews, and their spouses and children.

But there was more. So much more. Those who knew him, knew he laughed well and smiled often. He had an underbite that made his smile a little crooked, but all the more charming. He always took his job(s) seriously, devoting hours to helping students whether by grading papers, writing college recommendation letters, or in conferences with their parents when they'd made mistakes. He was a gifted cook who gave exacting directions to those who offered to help him. In truth, his micromanagement would have been more irritating if he hadn't been right so much of the time. He looked for and found freebies like a pro, and he loved a deal. He thrived in clutter with an organizational talent that was easy to miss in the mess around him. He loved cars with stick shifts, especially his Fox-body Saleen Mustang, which a colleague once dubbed "a tin can with a rocket engine." He would drive all over looking for the cheapest price on napa cabbage or chuck steak because, in contrast to his generous spirit, he hated paying more than necessary for anything. He was a muncher and someone who definitely lived to eat, always offering to share what he was eating or what he had in his pocket. Few things gave him greater pleasure than hosting a banquet. He loved Chinese Lion Dance, and took great pride in being a charter member of the VCCAA Lion Dance Troupe. He raised two children who are, as he was, grounded, creative, intelligent, productive adults who found special and ideal spouses and who love their families. He was thrilled to know the next generation of his family was arriving, even as he departed this earth.

Typical of his modest nature, he kept his poor health hidden from all but family and a few friends. He suffered frequently throughout his life, and ultimately lost his battle for life to the effects of kidney disease. In spite of these difficulties, he accepted the problems they posed, dealing with whatever fate presented on his own, and on his own terms, always concerned about any burden his needs might place on those he loved.

A celebration of his life, to be held in Camarillo where he and Athol lived for 38 of the 40 years they were married, will be held at St. Columba's Episcopal Church (1251 Las Posas, Camarillo) on March 25 beginning at 1:30 P.M. In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution in his honor to the Rio Mesa High School Scholarship Foundation, or . A fitting tribute to Kris would be to register as an organ donor.

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Attorney At Law

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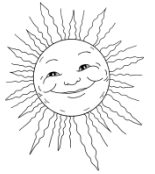
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# Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
<b>Memorial Day Picnic</b>	Monday, May 29, 2017 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 Rooster  
4715