



Ventura County Chinese American Association VCCAA



Newsletter

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www.vccaa.org

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<https://vccls.wikispaces.com>

Historical Society

www.vccaahs.org

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VCCAA Newsletter

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Greetings from the President

Dear Friends:

With all of the election drama this year, time has passed rapidly, and we are already in the final two months of the year, approaching the Christmas and New Year's season!

I think we had one of the best Mid-Autumn Festivals in recent years. The turnout was great, with several new members signing up and attending. The potluck table went on and on. The program was beautifully balanced and varied. Yuling Lu's dancers were wonderful as always, the performers from Shuqin Zhao's Voice of Thousand Oaks, our young piano soloist, and Zhao Xin's Tai Qi dance solo were all amazing. The Emcees were lively and professional, and Irene's students showed off their Chinese language skills in performing skits that got real laughs from the audience. Our new sound system which Justin Sy put online for the first time was a resounding success. Thank you Annie Wang, Irene Sy, and Shuqin Zhao and everyone else who contributed for all of your work in organizing such a successful community event.

On October 1, VCCAA again had a booth at the Oxnard Multicultural Festival. The event is an excellent opportunity to do the kind of cultural outreach that is central to our mission. Calligraphy Master Richard Lu was again a star attraction, with a continual line in front of his spot all day. I don't know why, but this year, I didn't see any children ask him to do calligraphy on their forearms like last year. Jiemin Bao and her daughter's lovely fan painting, Yuling Lu's dancers and Zhao Xin's Tai Qi performances were also very well received. Louise Dilger and her Taiko dancers were at a nearby booth. Thank you Lixin Durborow for coordinating this event.

Reminding us of what a small world it is, Yongping and I ran into our sister Conejo Creek Chinese Association President Li Wencheng and his wife at the Chinese National Day in Los Angeles (see the picture of all of us with Chinese Consul General Ambassador Liu below). Yongping and I also hosted a small dinner for Shan Yueh (Ashley)'s parents when they were visiting from Camarillo's friendship city, Shaoxing. I am also glad to see Hillary often as he crisscrosses the county distributing the Chester Asia meal certificates – it seems like sales are doing well, which is fortunate because they are a key part of our annual fundraising. Thank you, Hillary.

The History Society continues to work on an Oxnard China Alley walking tour and lecture, which George Yu, Linda Bentz, and Scott Corbett are enthusiastically spearheading. It sounds like this may happen early next year.

A good number of us were able to attend the memorial service for Marie Louie in Los Angeles. The event was so well done with wonderful vignettes and stories from her life, including from George Yu and Linda Bentz, who spoke as our VCCAA's representatives, that it was a real celebration of her life and the sometimes turbulent times through which she lived. Please see George's article about Marie, and enjoy the recipes for her fabulous cookies.

I look forward to seeing you all soon at this year's Christmas Party on December 10. Happy Thanksgiving and Seasonal Greetings to all!
All best wishes,

Angus Simmons



Mid-Autumn Festival *by Annie Wang*

Approximately two hundred people joined our VCCAA family at the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival held on September 17, 2016 at Rancho Rosal School. It was a joyous gathering and everyone had a great time together.

The program that night was amazing. The dancers from Yu-Ling's dance troupe did a great job again this year and put on a great show. The Dance Troupe performed three dances: Ribbon Dance, Picking Tea Leaves Dance, and Taiwan Aboriginal Dance. The audience was overwhelmed by their extraordinary moves and their elegant dresses.

The students from piano teacher Marlina Trevor performed many beautiful music pieces. The audience enjoyed the performances and loved that so many young and talented kids (Selina Laird and Lilian Yokota) played piano. Thank you to their teacher Marlina Trevor.

Ventura Chinese School Level 3 class performed a very interesting skit.

Finally, "The Voice of Thousand Oaks" sang and played many fantastic songs. From duets to solos to chorus, and even flute solo, all made our Moon Festival show move to a much higher level.

Again, we thank them for volunteering at our joyous event this year. Moon cake was passed around to all of the tables. Volunteers and visitors alike shared the classic red bean paste and egg-yolk moon cakes. The event was very successful, all due to the volunteers and staff that served. Thanks again to everyone that participated and made this such a wonderful night!



Scholarships! *by Louise Dilger, Chair*

Attention High School Seniors! It's time to think about applying for one of five VCCAA scholarships. The application may be obtained online from our website: www.vccaa.org. We will have some available at the Christmas Party as well. The application involves sending for official transcripts of your grades, SAT, ACT, and AP test scores. You will need time to send away for these, so don't wait until the last minute. All applications MUST be received before **April 1, 2017**. The committee is looking forward to reviewing your work. Good Luck!



Upcoming Events!

Christmas Party *By Brian Nomi*



WHAT: VCCAA Christmas Party
WHEN: Saturday, December 10th, 2016, 6:00 pm
WHERE: Rancho Rosal School
3535 Village at the Park Drive
Camarillo, CA 93012
CONTACT: Brian Nomi, [805.444.5960](tel:805.444.5960)

The middle of winter has long been a time of celebration around the world. Early Europeans celebrated light and birth in the darkest days of winter. Many people rejoiced during the winter solstice, when the worst of the winter was behind them and they could look forward to longer days and extended hours of

sunlight.

In the 17th century the Puritans did not celebrate Christmas. December 25th was a workday. Then in the late 1700s, Christmas was a happy holiday. Colonists decorated their fireplaces with greenery, sung carols, and feasted. No one, however, had a Christmas tree.

In 1823 Clement Moore wrote the poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas." Saint Nicholas or Santa Claus began to play a big part in the celebration of Christmas. Then in the 1840s, German immigrants introduced the Christmas tree. This decoration became a major part of the Christmas tradition. During the 1890s, Victorians decorated their trees and homes with lots of lace, flowers, and glass ornaments. Sending Christmas cards became popular during this time.

Today, we combine old and new traditions to celebrate Christmas in a way that is meaningful to our family and friends. Join us for a gathering of family and friends. Enjoy the warm camaraderie and partaking of food and drink. Enjoy the evening's program and visit from Santa!

* * * * *

Please bring a dish to be shared sufficient for your family and ten plus extra people. Beverages and some Chinese dishes will be provided by the VCCAA. There will be some entertainment after dinner, and Santa Claus will be giving gifts to the children. See you all for a fun packed family event.



Chinese Language School *by Irene Sy*



A new academic year ushered in on September 2, 2016 for our Chinese Language School. It was exhilarating to see some new faces and our returning students for another exciting year. We are excited to have these energetic and enthusiastic youths joining the school. Students were welcomed by our teachers, Ms. Ellie YH Tu (杜蕴慧老师), Ms. Hongyan Zhou (周红艳老师), Mrs. Xiaoli King(张小丽老师), and Ms. Jessie Chen (陈杰老师). I would like to thank Mrs. Jenny Fung, our associate principal for helping with registration and administration.

We will be planning some fundraising and recreational activities again this year. Our first fundraiser will be the silent auction at the VCCAA Christmas Party on December 10. We are requesting donations in terms of new items or preferably gift cards to help with our silent auction at the VCCAA Christmas party held at Rancho Rosal School, 3535 Village at the Park Drive, Camarillo. Kindly contact me at vcchineseschool@aol.com or Irenecsy@aol.com; or Mrs. Jenny Fung at rabbit8@msn.com to arrange for a pickup of your donation or simply call 805-482-4765 and leave me a message. I will get back to you as soon as I can. We thank you for your generosity and support. A receipt for your donation will be provided for tax deduction where applicable when requested. The Chinese school will be having its very own Christmas gift exchange party on December 16.

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Jenny Fung at rabbit8@msn.com to arrange for a pickup of your donation or simply call 805-482-4765 and leave me a message. I will get back to you as soon as I can. We thank you for your generosity and support. A receipt for your donation will be provided for tax deduction where applicable when requested. The Chinese school will be having its very own Christmas gift exchange party on December 16.

Our students, together with students from the Rio Mesa High School Chinese classes, participated in the 7th Annual

Multicultural BookFest organized by the Camarillo Library in collaboration with PVSD, and the Recreational Park District at the Community Center on Saturday, November 5th. Our students read many Chinese culture stories to children visiting the event. Students had also helped out in the VCCAA Mid-Autumn Festival celebration on September 17th. Our master of ceremonies, Addison Marcum and Sebastian Mireles did a marvelous job “emceeding” our event. Thank you Addison and Sebastian!

Thank you again for your continual support and we look forward to your generous donation for our Silent Auction on December 10th! 谢谢!

Marie Louie - In Memoriam (1927-2016) *by George Yu*

Marie Louie, a long-time member of the Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society (VCCAHS) passed away on Sept 27, 2016. On October 15, 2016 her family and friends gathered at the Atherton Baptist Homes in Alhambra, CA to celebrate Marie's life and legacy. Many of the Ventura County Chinese community were in attendance.

Marie was an active member of the Ventura County Chinese American Association (VCCAA) ever since she moved from Los Angeles to Camarillo over twenty years ago. She was also an avid supporter of the VCCAHS since its founding in 2000. The monthly meeting of the VCCAHS was held in Marie's home for over ten years. Marie served her famous pastry and tea for all the participants. She was a most gracious hostess and always attentive to all the projects in the historical society.

Marie was a direct descendant from one of the first Chinese families to settle in Ventura County. Her grandparents, Yee Hay and Chan Shee, moved to Ventura with their young daughter, Emily, in 1881. Marie's mother, Nellie, was born in Ventura China Alley, across from the Mission and where Figueroa Street sits now. At its height, there were about two hundred Chinese living in Ventura China Alley. Nellie grew up in Ventura and eventually moved to Los Angeles.

In 2002, Marie and her sister, Lillian Wong, gave a videotaped interview where they reminisced about the life of their mother, Nellie, while growing up in Ventura China Alley. It gave a rare glimpse into the lives of a Chinese family living under the prejudice of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Yet both Marie and Lillian recalled the joy of Nellie and her family interacting with their friends while living in this segregated neighborhood. The footage of their conversation was preserved in the documentary, *Courage and Contribution – the history of Chinese Americans in Ventura County*. The legacy of the Yee Hay family has been retold numerous times in both printed media and exhibition at the Ventura County Museum. Her family history and photographs were an integral part of the book, *Hidden Lives – a century of Chinese American History in Ventura County*.

Marie was a mentor to many of her nieces and nephews. Her love of the next generation was also extended to Linda Bentz, historian of the VCCAHS. Marie had spent countless hours talking with Linda about the Yee family lore as well as the Chinese traditions and culture. Linda recalled this bond with Marie with great affection and gratitude. Marie touched the lives of many of us who knew her through the VCCAA and VCCAHS. We are grateful that she spent a good part of her retirement years in Camarillo and thus enriched our community. We will miss you, Marie.





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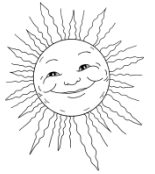
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Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
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
Chinese New Year Celebration	Saturday, February 4, 2017 at 12:00pm	Camarillo Public Library, 4101 East Las Posas Road, Camarillo, 93010	Irene Sy: 805-482-4765



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4714