



## Ventura County Chinese American Association VCCAA



### Newsletter

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VCCAA

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

Language School

<https://vccls.wikispaces.com>

Historical Society

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

#### Newsletter Editor

Alvin Little

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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,

We just celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival at the Rancho Rosal School. I appreciate the efforts of everyone who worked so hard to put it together. There was a great selection of homemade dishes that were so delicious to eat and the evening was filled with wonderful performances. Please thank Annie Wang, Shuqin Zhao, Lee-May Little, Andy Little, Lixin Durborow, Richard Lu, the students from Chinese school, and volunteers from Tommy Hilfiger for assisting in the event.

We just mourned the passing of Angela Soo Hoo, a dear and valued member of our community. A beautiful funeral service celebrated "A Life Well Lived". Many local and state officials came to pay their respects along with about two hundred and twenty family members and friends. I got a chance to say goodbye to one of my dearest friends. She was a close friend to many of you as well.

I am sure she has touched the lives of so many. Angela was definitely the first lady in our community and in my heart. She was a devoted wife, mother, daughter-in-law, sister, and friend. She supported our Chinese association as well as our historical society.

I will never forget the time I have spent with her, how she shared her stories about her family, especially her grandchildren, and her hardships. We laughed and accomplished things together that we thought were impossible. I cherished her wisdom, her humbleness, and her determination. She taught me not to be afraid and to have confidence in what I believe and do. I am very grateful and honored to get to know her for such of short time, but I felt like I knew her my whole life.

I hope that I can be like her and be a friend to so many. As your president, I am so grateful for all the opportunities I have been given to serve our association. It reminds me that the time we have together is very precious. I hope we can take good care and help each other.

I am looking forward for our Christmas party on December 15<sup>th</sup> and I hope to see all of you there. The time is also quickly approaching for our Chinese New Year celebration on February 23, 2019. There will be even more exciting programs coming through our partnership with the Camarillo Library. Please invite your family and friends to come and show your support.

Thanks again for all of you who are serving on the board as well as all the volunteers who provide their valuable time to help. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to Lloyd Ho for taking such great pictures at our events.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes to Everyone!  
Grace



## Reports from Past Events!

### Mid-Autumn Festival *by Annie Wang*

Approximately one hundred and fifty people joined our VCCAA family at the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival held on September 15th, 2018 at Rancho Rosal School. It was a joyous occasion, and everyone had a great time.

The program that night was amazing. The dancers from Yu-Ling's class did a great job again this year and put on a great show. The Dance Troupe performed two dances: *Mongolian Dance* and *Taiwan Aboriginal Dance*. The audience was overwhelmed by their extraordinary moves and their elegant dresses.

New Dance Group - Pleasant Valley Dance Troupe under VCCAA gave audiences two outstanding performances: *Dance Good Dream* and *Spring Journey to Yang Zhou*. Everyone was so amazed how the elegant movements performed by the local dancer lovers. The program was designed by Jane Anderson. Thank You Jane! You did an awesome job.

"The Voice of Thousand Oaks" sang and played many fantastic songs. *A Small Trail* by Jin Wang and *Tenor Solo* by Liu Dong made our Moon Festival showcase move to much higher level.

Again, we thank them for volunteering at our joyous event this year.

Mooncake was passed around for all the tables. Volunteers and visitors alike shared the classic red bean pasted and egg yolk moon cakes. The event was very successful all due of the volunteers and staff that served. Thanks again to everyone that participated and made this experience the rich flavor it was that night.



### Chinese Language School *by Shuqin Zhao and Angus Simmons*

This fall, the Chinese Language School is off to a great start in its new 2:30 to 4:30 pm Sunday afternoon time slot and Boys and Girls Club location on Temple Street. The Boys and Girls Club has been a very supportive and welcoming host, providing a great environment and ample space for our classes. Hillary Ling, Tyrus Goo, and Angus Simmons all added "white board assembler" to their resumes so that classes began with fully equipped classrooms.

We now have about 30 enthusiastic students, from pre-school to level four, and a hearty contingent of adults in the adult conversation class. The students are using textbooks from the Better Chinese series, which is the same text series as the local high schools were using before they discontinued their

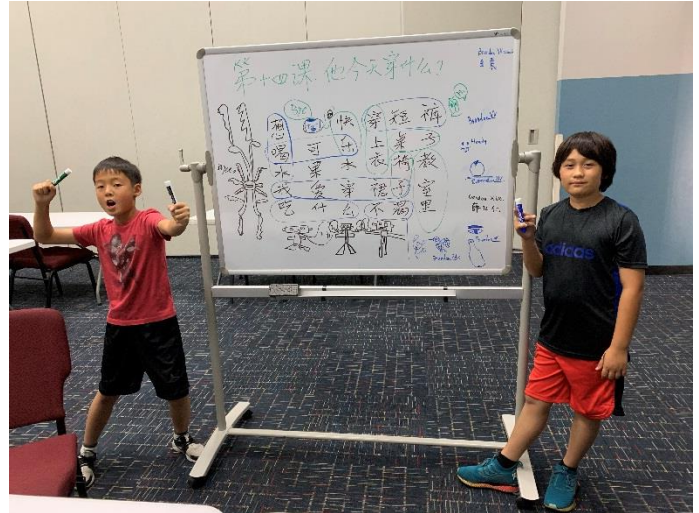
Chinese classes. We are very happy and proud to report that Renee Chang, who is a college Board certified Advanced Placement (AP) Chinese teacher, is now offering AP Chinese at our school.

Chinese culture is very much part of the School's learning agenda. We will have three Chinese calligraphy classes with Master Richard Lu, teaching



students to write with the brush. We are also pleased to see that students are preparing

performances for the upcoming Christmas Party and helped with the MC duties during the Mid-Autumn Festival. It is wonderful to see the students and teachers supporting the broader VCCAA mission.



We owe Dean Shuqin Zhao and our amazing group of teachers a huge vote of thanks for their energy and creativity, which is the heart of the school. Our teaching staff includes ten teachers, including a deep bench of four substitute teachers so we can keep classes running smoothly. Thank you all so much for your

dedication and focus on our students and the curriculum.

If you have potential students in your family, please stop by and check the school out!

## Upcoming Events!

### Christmas Party *by Lee-May Little*

**WHAT:** VCCAA Christmas Party  
**WHEN:** Saturday, December 15, 2018, 6:00pm  
**WHERE:** Rancho Rosal School  
3535 Village at the Park Drive  
Camarillo, CA 93012  
**CONTACT:** Lee-May Little (805) 484-5222

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 VCCAA family and their friends. Enjoy the warm camaraderie and partake in some good food and drink. Enjoy the evening's program and special visit from SANTA!

謹祝賀大家，聖誕佳節愉快！



\*\*\*\*\*

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 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.

### **Angela Soo Hoo In Remembrance** *by Wendy Leung, Ventura County Star*



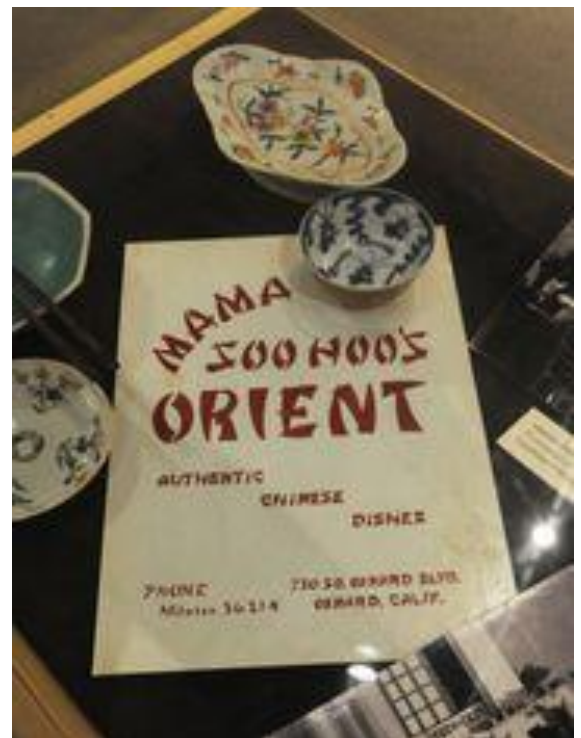
A former first lady of Oxnard who flew airplanes and started a customs broker business has died. Angela Soo Hoo, a Stanford University graduate and a genetics lab expert, was married to former Mayor Bill Soo Hoo. She died on Oct. 11 at the age of 85. In 1966, Bill Soo Hoo was elected mayor of Oxnard, becoming the first Chinese American mayor in California. He also was the city's first Oxnard-born mayor. Bill Soo Hoo died in 1990.

Born in San Francisco with degrees from UC Berkeley and Stanford University, Angela Soo Hoo was a researcher when she met the man who would be her husband. She helped set up the genetics labs at Stanford, where she got a doctorate in chemistry. Bill Soo Hoo at the time was in the middle of his mayoral term. He also owned Mama Soo Hoo's Orient, a restaurant his parents opened on Oxnard Boulevard, not far from an enclave known as China Alley. Angela Soo Hoo didn't know quite what to believe when this man told her he owned a restaurant and was the mayor

of Oxnard.

In a 2004 video produced by the Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society, Angela Soo Hoo recounts her introduction to the Oxnard mayor. "Owning a restaurant, I believe," Angela Soo Hoo said. "A mayor of Oxnard, I thought, 'Yeah, and I'm the Queen of Sheba.'" Angela Soo Hoo wasn't into politics much but she supported her husband wholeheartedly. The couple was starting to make plans to move to Washington DC after presidential candidate Robert Kennedy offered Bill Soo Hoo a position. Days after that job offer, Kennedy was assassinated. Their son, Brian Soo Hoo, described his mother as loving, intelligent, independent and strong-willed. Her friend, Grace Leo, said she was struck by how outspoken Angela Soo Hoo was when she first met her and after getting to know her better, she realized how gracious and generous she was.

Leo, president of the Ventura County Chinese American Association, remembered getting treatment for cancer and Angela Soo Hoo was a great comfort. Leo said her friend would drive her around in a big Cadillac and one day insisted on going to Grant Park in Ventura. Angela Soo Hoo thought the panoramic sunset views would help Leo feel better. But when the two friends arrived at the park, the lot was full because a wedding was taking place. "So, she made herself a parking spot," Leo said. "She's very determined."



Angela Soo Hoo knew how to fly planes, not because she was a professional pilot or a thrill seeker. She learned to fly a plane because she often got car sick.

On Tuesday, a moment of silence was held at the City Council meeting in memory of Angela Soo Hoo. "She and her family were legendary in our city," said Councilwoman Carmen Ramirez. "In a time of turmoil and division in our country in the '60s, this city, the residents elected the first



Chinese American mayor in the state of California. This is something to be proud of."

Bill Soo Hoo was elected mayor in 1966, just 23 years after the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act, a federal law prohibiting the immigration of Chinese laborers. Oxnard had 71,000 residents and less than 3 percent of the population were Asian Americans, according to the 1970 U.S. Census. He was a second-generation Chinese American who served in the Army. After his military service in World War II, Bill Soo Hoo wanted to move to north Oxnard but was told that while he could buy property, he couldn't live there because of his race. The blatant discrimination was what propelled Bill Soo Hoo to run for office. "They had a very difficult life to be honest with you," Brian Soo Hoo said. "Nothing came easy. Not a lot of doors opened for them." Bill Soo Hoo had problems finding a job after leaving office. Angela Soo Hoo, who left her Stanford job when she moved to Oxnard, wanted to work at UCLA but the public school wouldn't pay her as much as Stanford. So, the couple started their own customs brokerage business. Brian Soo Hoo, who now runs Soo Hoo Customs Broker, explained that it's a job that requires a federal license. "Amazingly she passed the test," Brian Soo Hoo said about his mother, adding that not many people pass. "Without knowing about it, she became a customs broker." Soo Hoo Customs Broker, which helps facilitate the import and export of goods, set up Del Monte Foods at the Port of Hueneme.

Angela Soo Hoo was active in the local Chinese American community and was doing well until two years ago when she had a stroke after returning from a trip to Asia. She was hospitalized but eventually recovered. Earlier this year, Angela Soo Hoo had another stroke and had been under hospice care in recent months. She lived in the north Oxnard neighborhood of River Ridge. Brian Soo Hoo pointed out that his family got to live in the north side of town "literally decades later."

Angela Soo Hoo is survived by her sisters Rosie Soohoo and Helen Lowe; son Brian Soo Hoo; daughter-in-law Linda Soo Hoo; and grandchildren Brandon, Ashley, Melody and Naomy Soo Hoo.

More Pictures from the Mid-Autumn Festival



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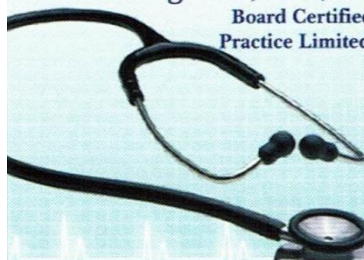
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The Ventura County Chinese American Association

## Dance Troupe

is currently welcoming new dancers!



All classes are currently open

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**Monday 4:30pm - 6:00pm**  
(Beginner)

Dancers must be at least 5 years of age.  
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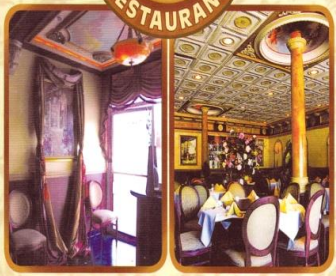
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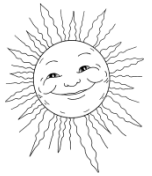
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# Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact
<b>Christmas Party</b>	Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 6:00pm	Rancho Rosal School 3535 Village at the Park Drive Camarillo, CA 93012	Lee May Little: (805) 484-5222
<b>Chinese New Year Celebration</b>	Saturday, February 23, 2019	Camarillo Public Library 4101 Las Posas Road Camarillo, CA 93010	Grace Leo: (805) 304-5466



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