



Newsletter

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Web Sites

VCCAA

www.vccaa.org

Language School
<https://vccls.wikispaces.com>

Historical Society
www.vccaahs.org

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Alvin Little

VCCAA Newsletter
P.O. Box 806
Camarillo, CA 93011
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Greetings from the President

Dear VCCAA members and friends,

Season Greetings! I am looking forward to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays as we celebrate with our loved ones, family, and friends. I will be hosting an open house at my home for the VCCAA Christmas Party on Saturday December 14 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. It is a Pot Luck so bring your favorite dish. You are all part of my family and I invite and welcome you to my home. I've always liked the saying, "Home is where the heart is" and I truly love my VCCAA family. If you like, please bring a white elephant gift per person to exchange.

You can also bring one of your most memorable pictures or thing about you or your family that you would like to tell us about. For some of you that like to sing, bring your favorite music so we can sing along with you. If anyone needs a ride, please contact me and I will arrange for your transportation. Please come, bring a friend or meet a new friend. I guarantee you will have the time of your life.

I want to thank Andy and Lee-May Little for chairing the Mid-Autumn Festival, Irene Sy for providing the story behind the festival, and Yu Ling's dance troupe for providing the dance performances. Of course, I can't forget the tasty food that was shared. Thank you everyone that participated and helped with the event.

The Oxnard Multicultural Festival event was one that I enjoyed greatly. The Community Relations Commission of the City of Oxnard hosted the event and they graciously invited us to participate. I felt the warm welcome of the city and the people there being part of the Oxnard Community. I was so happy to meet all of the young children and their parents as well as the people from other cultures who visited our booth. I love the fact that we are all one and we promote peace. When I ask the children what they know about China from their perspective, some told me orange chicken, some told me Mulan, and one told me Ni Hao Kailan. They brought me joy and made me laugh.

Congratulations to Joana and Samuel Steel who are expecting their first son and their daughter Chloe Ann who just celebrated her first birthday. I appreciate them for inviting us to this special occasion and for getting to know them better.



Continued on next page →

President's Message continued...

The registration of Chinese American WWII Veterans for a Congressional Gold Medal to honor them for their service is coming to a close soon. If you know any Chinese Americans who served in WWII, please register at <https://www.caww2.org/preservation>. Contact me if you have any questions. We are organizing a ceremony next year to honor our local WWII veterans. If you would like to volunteer to decorate or donate to the American Heroes Float sponsored by the Chinese American Heritage Foundation, please contact me.

The Easy and Maria fires remind us again that we need to be prepared for disasters. Please register to receive emergency alerts at <https://www.readyventuracounty.org/>. This website also has a lot of valuable information about planning for emergencies in Ventura County.

Please also remember to register everyone in your household for the 2020 U.S. Census starting on April 1, 2020. Our local community will lose \$2000 per year for the next 10 years for each person that is not counted. This is a benefit that we cannot afford to miss out on.

Hope to see everyone at our next event, the Christmas party!

Happy Holidays,
Grace 廖陳淑芬



Reports from Past Events!



Mid-Autumn Festival *by Lee-May Little*

Recently it was Moon Cake Festival time. On Saturday September 14th, 2019 at Rancho Rosal School in Camarillo, VCCAA members had one of their favorite gatherings to celebrate this meaningful Chinese cultural holiday. Approximately one hundred and twenty people joined together.

Great thanks to Dr. Hillary Ling for his special, updated background posters. They made the stage much more meaningful and beautiful. Also big thanks to Grace Leo for ordering Moon Cakes from Costco. They were delicious and we saved a lot. Of course the evening definitely included many, many home-made dishes and sweet treats, and a lot of conversations.

After the meal, the program started with Yu-Ling's Dance Troupe. They performed 3 dances: the Yao Dance/瑶族舞, the Fan Dance/月圓花好, and the Taiwan Aborigine Dance/ 站在高崗上. Thank you to all the wonderful performers: Lesley and Jayme Smarinsky, Judy Nomi, Jennifer Leo, and two new little cutie dancers, Evie Potter and Brooklyn Peterson. Job well done girls!

With Ms. Irene Sy's special power point explanation, we all deeply understood why and how this meaningful cultural celebration has continued from generation to generation. Some young audience interaction made the legend more fun. It was greatly appreciated Irene. Please go to vccaa.org to view more of the event photos. Thanks to our best pictures man, Mr. Lloyd Ho.

Again, we would like to thank all the volunteers, staff and visitors whose participation made this event successful. Hope to see you all at the coming VCCAA Christmas Party.

Oxnard Multicultural Festival *by Ricky Leo*



On October 5, VCCAA had a booth representing China at the 24th Annual Multicultural Festival at Downtown Plaza Park. There were live bands, dance performances, international booths, food, and arts & crafts. The event was well attended and we were able to talk to the many people who stopped by to have their passports stamped off. A special thanks to Lixin Durborow, Grace and myself for decorating our booth, Richard Lu for writing the Chinese name of visitors in calligraphy, and Alex Lu for helping out.

Upcoming Events!

VCCAA Chinese School by *Angus Simmons and Shuqin Zhao*



We are already two months into the Chinese School Fall Semester, which will continue through January 12. Registration appears to have stabilized, with a very full pre-K class taught by Jing Li laoshi. This bodes well for the future of the school as this large cohort moves up to higher level classes. We welcome additional students at all levels, including our adult conversation class taught by Tom Zhu laoshi, and our Advanced Placement (AP) preparation class taught by credentialed AP teacher Renee Chang.

Master Richard Lu's calligraphy and painting class continues to attract students of all ages and he is ambitious for his students to produce outstanding samples of each that can be exhibited in public places. Richard's classes are every other weekend, and brushes and paper are always available for a modest fee at the classes. Come and check out the fun!

We recently received good news regarding the school's non-profit status, which has now been approved by the IRS. With that decision letter in hand, we immediately applied for California state approval, which hopefully will be approved shortly.

We want to thank our teachers for the wonderful job they do in providing a nourishing and learning environment for our students.



Shuqin Zhao & Angus Simmons

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The Ventura County
Chinese American Association

Dance Troupe

is currently welcoming new dancers!



All classes are currently open

Sunday 9:30am - 11:00am
(Intermediate & Advanced)

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

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

Classes held at
2031 Spyglass Trail West, Oxnard 93036.
For more information, please contact
Mrs. Yu-Ling Lu at (805) 983-6082 or 990-3866

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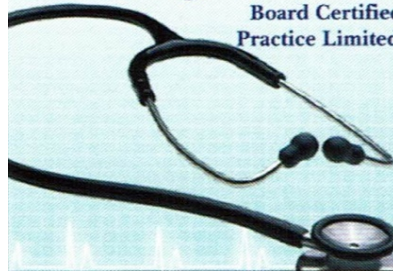
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Upcoming Events



| WHAT | WHEN | WHERE | Point of Contact |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chinese Language School Begins | Sunday, September 8 th , 2019 from 2:30 – 4:30pm | Boys & Girls Club of Camarillo, 1500 Temple Avenue, Camarillo, CA 93010 | Angus Simmons: (805)689-8108 |
| Chester's Gift Certificates Fundraising | Available now | | Dr. Hillary Ling: (805)216-6599 or hlingdds@gmail.com |
| Christmas Party & Pot Luck | Saturday, December 14 th , 2019 from 2:00 to 6:00pm | 3090 Morningside Dr, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362 | Grace Leo: (805)492-4186 or graceleo88@gmail.com |
| Volunteers Needed 2020 Rose Parade Float "American Heroes" | December 26-30, 2019 | Fiesta Parade Floats Irwindale, CA 91117 | Chinese American Heritage Foundation (https://www.cahf.us/programs) Or Grace Leo: graceleo88@gmail.com |
| 2020 Chinese New Year Festival | TBD | TBD | Grace Leo: (805)492-4186 or graceleo88@gmail.com |

Membership Renewal Reminder

If you have not renewed your VCCAA membership for 2019-2020, please send your check for \$25, made payable to VCCAA, to P.O. Box 806, Camarillo, CA 93001-0806.



Year of the Pig
4717

Please include your physical address, email address, and contact phone number so we can update the directory.