



February 2011

Newsletter

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Lena Ho

* * * *

VCCAA Newsletter
P.O. Box 806
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Greetings from the President

Happy Chinese New Year, Members and Sponsors!

The Christmas Party held on Sat., Dec. 11, 2010, was an outstanding success. Over 200 members, families and friends enjoyed fellowship with one another. The entrées and shared entrées were most delectable. Performances by our award winning Classical Dance Troupe were an artistic treat; Chinese Language School students and teachers sang linguistically sweet sounds; Thousand Oaks Chinese Folk Ensemble were an auditory treat; Santa was great.



This is the Year of the Rabbit, 4709. Rabbits are those individuals born in 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011. They are articulate, talented, ambitious, admired, trusted. They are most compatible with those born in the years of the Sheep, Pig, and Dog.

It is the Chinese New Year tradition that every family gives its house a thorough cleaning, hoping to sweep away all the ill fortune there may have been in the family to make way for the wishful in-coming good luck. People also give their doors and window-panes a new paint, usually in red color. They decorate the doors and windows with paper-cuts and couplets with the very popular theme of "happiness", "wealth", "longevity" and "satisfactory marriage with more children". In the old days, it was a Chinese New year tradition to distribute various kinds of food at the altar of ancestors.

Our Chinese New Year event at Camarillo Constitution Park was held on Sat., Feb. 5, 2011, 1-4 PM. The program included: Lion Dance, Kung Fu demonstrations, Chinese classical dances, and Chinese classical instrument music ensemble. Many Chinese souvenirs were for sale as well as a calligraphy booth demonstration and crafts tables for kids.

After that is the Easter Egg Hunt on April 23, 2011, at the Ling Ranch. We look forward to you and your family members joining us.

I wish all of you and your family members
a very happy, healthy, and prosperous 2011!

Lloyd Ho
President 2010-2011

Newsletter Inputs Are Welcome!

The VCCAA Newsletter welcomes the submission of articles, constructive comments, suggestions, or personal experiences that you want to share with the other members. Please write to VCCAA Newsletter, P.O. Box 806, Camarillo, CA 93011-0806; e-mail to me at brt2eyes@yahoo.com.

Lena Ho
Editor

Christmas Party

by Brian Nomi



The VCCAA annual end-of-year joyful Christmas Party took place on Sat., Dec. 11, at the Pleasant Valley Instructional Center (formerly Los Primeros School) in Old Town Camarillo. Approximately 200 members, families and friends were in attendance. Joint emcee duties were performed by Kenny Wang, Youth Group President, and Jenny Xu.

Attendees enjoyed potluck dinner with shared entrées brought by members and performances by Yu-Ling Lu's award winning *Classical Dance Troupe* (Jennifer Leo, Grace Coulter, Jetta Wong, Laurel Mooney, Lucy Curtis,

Monica Lin, Kelly Tebbe, Emily Meschke, Amanda Sheu), as well as a performance by the *Chinese Language School* students and teachers.

Shuqin Zhao led the *Thousand Oaks Chinese Folk Ensemble* to play three pieces of traditional Chinese music. Finally, Eric Plambeck came on stage as Santa Claus and gave wrapped bags of toys to all the girls and boys.

Thanks to all who attended, performed, or helped with the setup before and cleaning afterwards! Special appreciation to the VCCAA Youth Group and the Camarillo High School Chinese culture club who helped a lot on setting up, serving foods, and cleaning.

Chinese New Year Event

by Zeak Simmons, PhD



Sunshine, blue sky, smiles all around.

On Feb. 5, 2011 – the Year of the Rabbit (4709) – our 5th year for Chinese New Year celebration at Constitution Park in Camarillo was held. Due to the outstanding work of our Chinese New Year committee, there were more than 500 people that attended. The committee members were Irene Sy, Lee-May Little and Zeak Simmons. The committee met several times to formulate the program.

It started with Greetings from VCCAA president Mr. Lloyd Ho, followed by a Lion Dance and Kung Fu demonstration by the Camarillo Kung Fu Club. Yu-Ling Lu's Classical Dance Troupe performed five (5) beautiful Chinese classical dances. Thousand Oaks Chinese Classical Folk Ensemble gave the audience high quality musical selections, including instrumental and singing performances.

In addition to these traditional activities this year we again had the honor of having Mr. Jason Jiang and his assistant to present a terrific acrobatic show, involving some young members that attended the event. For the first time this year, we had the Taiko Drums performed by the SGI Taiko Drum Team.

Towards the end of the program the Chinese Language School students sang New Year's songs together with the audience.

Besides the performances on stage, there were various booths that drew people's attention: the arts and crafts, souvenirs, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese antiques display, etc.

A great big thank you to the Mayor of Camarillo, Mr. Mike Morgan, for attending and speaking at our Chinese New Year Event.

Many thanks to the board members, youth group members, Chinese school teachers, performers and all the other volunteers that worked so hard to make this event a great success!



* * * * *

An official DVD of the VCCAA Chinese New Year Event in Camarillo Constitution Park is available for sale at only \$15 per copy.

If anyone wants to buy a copy or copies of our Chinese New Year Event performance which was held on Sat., Feb. 5, at Constitution Park in Camarillo, please place your order at: info@vccaa.org or mail your order request and check to:

VCCAA
New Year Festival DVD
P.O. Box 806
Camarillo, California 93011

Include your name, address, phone number, email address, indicate number of copies you want and whether you also attend the VCCAA Chinese Language School or belong to the VCCAA Classical Dance Troup, Camarillo Kung Fu and Lion Dance Club, Thousand Oaks Chinese Folk Ensemble, SGI Taiko Drum Team, or Chinese Acrobats.

Upcoming Event

Easter Egg Hunt

When: **Saturday, Apr. 23, 2011, 12:30 PM**

Where: **Ling Ranch, Somis**

Contact: **Lesley Ling Sule, (805) 407-7765**



Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt is on! Join us at the Ling Ranch for food, games and the hunt.

For each child participating, please bring:

* 1 Easter basket and

* 2 dozen filled plastic Easter eggs

When you arrive, please give your filled eggs to Lesley so we have time to hide everything well before the hunt starts.

We will be providing a simple lunch for all and games for the kids. We look forward to seeing all of you then!

Chinese Language School

by Irene Sy, Principal



The Chinese Language School's first *Talent and Variety* show held on Jan. 28 was a big success. We had over 120 attendees and a total of 21 programs, which included Dr. Andy Little's great harmonica solo, and most of all, the arrival of our Money God (Cai Shen 财神) which marked the climax of the night.

Every student was excited to receive Hong Bao (红包-lucky money) from our Cai Shen Yeye (财神爷爷 - Money God) and a rabbit souvenir to bring good luck to the rabbit year. Each and every one of them did a marvelous and splendid job. I am very proud of them! We were honored to have the presence of our Mayor, Mr. Mike Morgan. Mr. Morgan participated in the show by sharing a joke with us. Thank you, Mr. Mayor!

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make our event a great success, especially to Mrs. Fung, Mr. Cheng,

Mrs. Chow, all teachers and students, and especially, our vice-principal, Mr. Xiaoming Chen.

Thank you! 谢谢!

Our students also performed in the Chinese New Year celebration at the City of Camarillo Public Library before heading to the VCCAA Chinese New Year celebration at Constitution Park on Feb. 5th. The Level 4 students recited New Year poems and sang

Bai Nian (Wish You a Happy New Year) and Gongxi

Gongxi, while Mikaela Hunter from Level 1 class recited the poem - "Fly Freely, Little Bird!" The credit class students also helped managed the craft booths and shared their knowledge of the Chinese culture with many children at Constitution Park.

I would like to share the good news on our approval of a bus grant to visit the Chinese American Museum of Los Angeles. The field trip will most likely to be on a Saturday at the end of March or beginning April.

For those who missed the *Ventura County Star* newspaper write-up on our students by their reporter, Ms. Kim Gregory, here is the link to the news:

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2011/jan/29/keeping-ties-to-homeland/>



Scholarships

by Vivian Goo



Scholarship applications for children of the VCCAA members are on our website: www.vccaa.org. Applications for West Ventura County schools are in the respective school scholarship offices.

There will be two each \$750 scholarships and a minimum of one \$500 scholarship.

All scholarship applications must be postmarked on or before March 30, 2011. Applications must be mailed with the required supporting documents to:

VCCAA Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 806
Camarillo, California 93011

Best of luck to all applicants!

Youth Group

by Kenny Wang, President



Hello Everyone!

As the month of Feb. and our VCCAA events zoom on forward, I would like to thank all of those who have come and supported us at our events to please continue doing so. We are only able to make our events successful because of the wonderful volunteers who help.

I hope all of you attended our Chinese New Year celebration at Camarillo Constitution Park, Feb. 5. But, if not, I would like to wish everyone a *Happy Chinese New Year* and *Welcome the Year of the Rabbit!*

With kind regards and wishes,
Kenneth Wang

Membership

We start out the new year with a robust 139 members that include long-time families and new families. Sadly there are 22 families that are tardy in membership renewal. Please renew ASAP. Don't miss out on the quarterly newsletters and annual directory. The association needs

your participation and support.

Members please invite and encourage other family members and friends to be part of our association.

Thank you all for your continual support. It is gratefully appreciated.

Please welcome these new members. Make pen and pencil entries in your directory.

Anson Bing and Tracy Mar
Rachel Jade Kar-Yi Mar
Tanner Sterling Ting-Long Mar
Scarlett Rory Kar-Hay Mar
1571 Hobart Dr.
Camarillo, CA 93010
Tel: (805) 484-8896
Email: anson_mar@yahoo.com

Darren and Mona Lee
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176 Via Fiesta
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Shukun and Changen Yan Wang
Emily Yan
5059 Caminito Posada
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Tel: (805) 484-7785
Email: shukun_wang@yahoo.com

For membership information and/or suggestions, please send an email to Lloyd Ho at brt2eyes@yahoo.com.

A Glimpse on the History of China

The Self-Strengthening Movement

The rude realities of the Opium War, the unequal treaties, and the mid-century mass uprisings caused Qing courtiers and officials to recognize the need to strengthen China. Chinese scholars and officials had been examining and translating "Western learning" since the 1840s. Under the direction of modern-thinking Han officials, Western science and languages were studied, special schools were opened in the larger cities, and arsenals, factories, and shipyards were established according to Western models.

Western diplomatic practices were adopted by the Qing, and students were sent abroad by the government and on

individual or community initiative in the hope that national regeneration could be achieved through the application of Western practical methods.

Amid these activities came an attempt to arrest the dynastic decline by restoring the traditional order. The effort was known as the Tongzhi Restoration, named for the Tongzhi (同治) Emperor (1862-74), and was engineered by the young emperor's mother, the Empress Dowager Ci Xi (慈禧 1835-1908). The restoration, however, which applied "practical knowledge" while reaffirming the old mentality, was not a genuine program of modernization.

The effort to graft Western technology onto Chinese

institutions became known as the *Self-Strengthening Movement* (自強運動). The movement was championed by scholar-generals like Li Hongzhang (李鴻章 1823-1901) and Zuo Zongtang (左宗棠 1812-85), who had fought with the government forces in the Taiping Rebellion. From 1861 to 1894, leaders such as these, now turned scholar-administrators, were responsible for establishing modern institutions, developing basic industries, communications, and transportation, and modernizing the military.

But despite its leaders' accomplishments, the Self-Strengthening Movement did not recognize the significance of the political institutions and social theories that had fostered Western advances and innovations. This weakness led to the movement's failure. Modernization during this period would have been difficult under the best of circumstances. The bureaucracy was still deeply influenced by Neo-Confucian orthodoxy. Chinese society was still reeling from the ravages of the Taiping and other rebellions, and foreign encroachments continued to threaten the integrity of China.

The first step in the foreign powers' effort to carve up the empire was taken by Russia, which had been expanding into Central Asia. By the 1850s, tsarist troops also had invaded the Heilong Jiang watershed of Manchuria, from which their countrymen had been ejected under the Treaty of Nerchinsk. The Russians used the superior knowledge of China they had acquired through their century-long residence in Beijing to further their aggrandizement.

In 1860 Russian diplomats secured the secession of all of Manchuria north of the Heilong Jiang and east of the Wusuli Jiang (Ussuri River). Foreign encroachments increased after 1860 by means of a series of treaties imposed on China on one pretext or another. The foreign stranglehold on the vital sectors of the Chinese economy

was reinforced through a lengthening list of concessions.

Foreign settlements in the treaty ports became extraterritorial – sovereign pockets of territories over which China had no jurisdiction. The safety of these foreign settlements was ensured by the menacing presence of warships and gunboats.

At this time the foreign powers also took over the peripheral states that had acknowledged Chinese certainty and given tribute to the emperor. France colonized Cochin China, as southern Vietnam was then called, and by 1864 established a protectorate over Cambodia. Following a victorious war against China in 1884-85, France also took Annam. Britain gained control over Burma. Russia penetrated into Chinese Turkestan (the modern-day Xinjiang-Uyghur Autonomous Region).

Japan, having emerged from its century-and-a-half-long seclusion and having gone through its own modernization movement, defeated China in the war of 1894-95. The Treaty of Shimonoseki forced China to cede Taiwan and the Penghu Islands to Japan, pay a huge indemnity, permit the establishment of Japanese industries in four treaty ports, and recognize Japanese hegemony over Korea.

In 1898 the British acquired a ninety-nine-year lease over the so-called New Territories of Kowloon (九龍 or Jiulong in pinyin), which increased the size of their Hong Kong colony. Britain, Japan, Russia, Germany, France, and Belgium each gained spheres of influence in China.

The United States, which had not acquired any territorial cessions, proposed in 1899 that there be an “open door” policy in China, whereby all foreign countries would have equal duties and privileges in all treaty ports within and outside the various spheres of influence. All but Russia agreed to the United States overture.

Source: <http://www-chaos.umd.edu/history/modern2.html#taiping>

Quotable Quotes

Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.

Theodor “Dr. Seuss” Geisel (1904-1991); Writer, Cartoonist

The problem for education is not to teach people how to deal with success but how to deal with failure.

Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale, Military Ethics “Machiavelli, Management, and Moral Leadership,” 1957

Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones, you'll start having positive results.

Willie Nelson (1933-); Singer, Songwriter, Poet

Never get tired of doing little things for others. Sometimes, those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts.

Unknown

Good, better, best. Never let it rest. Until your good is better and your better is best.

Tim Duncan (1976-); Professional Basketball Player

All the strength and force of man comes from his faith in things unseen. He who believes is strong; he who doubts is weak. Strong convictions precede great actions.

James F. Clarke

Manners are a sensitive awareness of the feelings of others. If you have that awareness, you have good manners, no matter which fork you use.

Emily Post (1872-1960); American Author on Etiquette

Treat everyone with politeness, even those who are rude to you – not because they are nice, but because you are.

Unknown



Chinese New Year Celebration
 Camarillo Constitution Park
 Feb. 5, 2011



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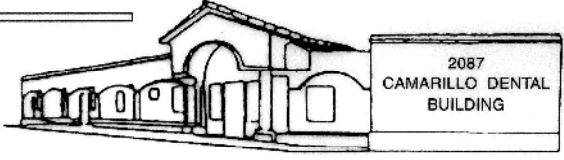
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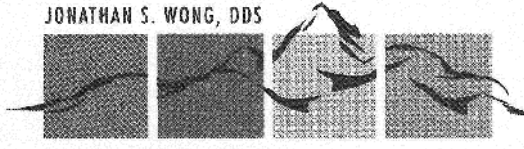
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The Ventura County
Chinese American Association

Dance Troupe

is currently welcoming new dancers!



All classes are currently open

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Monday | 5:30 pm - 5:50 pm (Intermediate) |
| Wednesday | 4:30 pm - 5:50 pm (Beginner) |
| Friday | 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm (Advanced) |

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

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Mrs. Yu-Ling Lu at (805) 983-6082 or 990-3866

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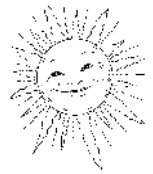
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Upcoming Events



| WHAT | WHEN | WHERE | Point of Contact |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Easter Egg Hunt | April 23, 2011 Saturday, 12:30 PM | Ling Ranch Somis | Lesley Ling-Sule |
| Combined Memorial Day Picnic, Awards & Installation | May 30, 2011 Monday, 11:00 AM | Pleasant Valley Park Temple Ave. & Ponderosa Rd. Camarillo | Leslie Jue Vivian Goo |



Year of the Rabbit
4709