



Roar of the Dragon

October 2015

President's Message

Welcome dear Friends and Families!

We thank you for continuing to support us and sharing with us your experience and knowledge for the improvement of the Association. I am aware that it has been quite awhile since we were able to notify you of what wonderful events we have in line for the coming year. We have not been short of functions and have been busy in keeping up. Our Social Committee has been busy running around to bring the events for the year. We hosted a wonderful August Moon Event on October 3rd and will have the Annual Christmas Party on December 5th. Then there is of course the BIG event – the banquet for next year. We have not set on the date nor the place at this time but we surely will announce it as soon as we have it.

The Chinese School continues to strive for students. We continue to bring what we have promised to our students. We hope that you continue to be in the background and recommend our school to your friends and families.

The Youth and the Lion Performers continues to perform despite of certain crisis that we may have. We have been invited by Sriracha to perform in their Chili Season Open House which will last through the rest of October. We had our first performance on September 12, 2015 and they invited us to perform on all the weeks. We have to turn down a couple of weeks due to other commitments. But we will be there on the 10th and the 17th. So if you are free, come join us. You also get to get from freebies from Sriracha! It is all fun.

Also to let you all know that we are updating our website. It is now www.sgvcca.com and also www.lion-dragondance.org. Please go and check our websites.

The Association continues on its mission to enrich the youth in learning their cultural heritage. We continue to have a school to teach children of all ages. Mentoring the youth is also a big aspect in the group. We teach our children leadership and also on being a good follower. In addition to the education and cultural aspects, the Association also served as a haven for life-long friendship. Working together through the years had given us a chance to meet people from all aspects of life. We have become close friends and cherished the memories in our life-time. This is the fertile ground for getting abundant support aside from families and friends!

So here we are continuing to our 48th year and next thing you know, we shall be celebrating our Golden Anniversary. We will not be slowed down. So come and join us and continue to make this organization the best as it can be!

Bernadette Wong
President

Inside

- Pg. 2 – Education
- Pg. 3 – Special Reprint: Bas's Bridge
- Pg. 5 – Photos from performances at Sriracha factory
- Pg. 6 – Notes from Newsletter Editor
- Pg. 7 – Membership form

Education

“Huan-ying”, Welcome back to all returning students and welcome to all new students and families!!

I hope everyone enjoyed their very hot summer break. First day of school is Saturday; October 3, 2015 at 9:00 am.

SGVCCA would like to take this opportunity to thank all students and their families for your support of our school.

We look forward to a fun and educational 2015-2016 school year. We are excited for students to explore the Chinese Language and Culture at our school through: Kung-Fu, Calligraphy, Lion Dancing, Cooking, Chinese Chess, Chinese Painting and Singing.

All students at the school are a part of our SGVCCA Youth Group free of charge. The Youth group is an extension of the Chinese school and meets every Wednesday from 6:30pm – 8:00 pm in the school. Students learn the art of Lion Dancing and participates in many different performances throughout the year. Participation in Youth may qualify for volunteer hours for college requirements.

Please remember to slow down when entering the school parking lot. Children are often out in the parking lot for Lion Dance and Kung-Fu warm ups.

Please remember that school begins promptly at 9:00am and ends at 12:20pm. Student(s) arriving to school late will miss important learning instructions. Please remember to pick up your student(s) on time as teachers have to leave and children get hungry. Constantly, being late to pick up your student(s) will constitute in a” late pick up fine”. We thank you in advance for your courtesy and understanding.

SGVCCA is having several events including the Annual August Moon Festival on the October 3rd at 6:00pm at Chinese School was a huge success. The purpose of the gathering is to bring together school students and families to meet other SGVCCA members that they otherwise may not meet.

There will be a parent back to school meeting on Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 9:00 am. Please come and we will answer any questions you may have.

Parents, are you interested in earning back your students tuition? Please inquire with our principal or educations chairs Jennifer Diep or Hung Oang.

Student enrollment is open throughout the school year.

Education Chairs

Jennifer Diep & Hung Oang



At Hollywood Bowl, July 2014

EAST MEETS WEST

Hello to all members who have been the regular readers of this column, welcome back to our SGVCCA for another year of excitement and cultural explorations of our Eastern and Western worlds. We were very much encouraged by many members who attended our August Moon Festival and inquired about the essays appearing on Bas's Bridge. We took some time off to help care for **Emily Lynn Breneman**, our first granddaughter. She has added a new perspective and a good reason for us to maintain a healthy and longer life. I am presently building a "hope chest" for her to keep her goodies. Inside the top cover I will carve these words for her:

*I know now what a long life's for
To share the joy when you open
this treasure chest.*

*I give to you the magic part
Of your 'Ah-Kong's' loving but
failing heart.*

You are my 'heart and liver.'

In the traditional Chinese family, we referred to our treasured baby as our "heart and liver." These are vital organs before the era of the ubiquitous heart or liver transplantation. In Fukienese, "Ah-Kong" means grandfather. We also learned from our Iranian friend that they also called their loving baby, the "liver and heart." The **Iranian Farsi** language is almost a continent away from our Chinese Mandarin and yet we use similar expression to signify the important position that we place on our babies in our families. Our human instinct to propagate our genes is very

evident here.

CHINESE MANDARIN:

We had a simple dinner at the **Taipan Restaurant** in Hacienda Heights one evening and spent about \$26.00 for three dishes and a pot of chrysanthemum tea. This is relatively inexpensive when compared to our Chinese dinner in **Zurich, Switzerland** that cost \$55.00 for two smaller dishes plus \$9.00 for a pot of hot tea. When we were in **Hangzhou City**, on the shores of "**West Lake**" in China, the dinner for four of us cost only \$16.50. The pot of three dishes and a pot of chrysanthemum tea. This is relatively inexpensive when compared to our Chinese dinner in **Zurich, Switzerland** that cost \$55.00 for two smaller dishes plus \$9.00 for a pot of hot tea. When we were in **Hangzhou City**, on the shores of "**West Lake**" in China, the dinner for four of us cost only \$16.50. The pot of *Rong Qin* tea was free. The West Lake area's mild climate made it a perfect place to produce the world famous *Rong Qin* tea. The **Qing Dynasty Emperor Kang Xi** visited West Lake and he was served the locally produced tea. He did not like the drink and wrote one line—"One drink and very bland." When he was half a day traveling back to Beijing, he noticed the soothing feeling on his throat and a very wonderful lightheaded demeanor. He came back to West Lake and added a second line—"but soothing to throat and cured my

This is a crude but effective way to gauge the cost of living in these three continents and a revealing window to look inside how the people carry on their lives. Our experience at the Taipan Restaurant also gave us some insight that the Chinese menu can be intimidating to someone who cannot read Mandarin or speak any Chinese dialect. All the clients in that dining room were Chinese.

Almost four decades ago, when I first came to Los Angeles area to work, I could not find a decent Chinese restaurant in the **San Gabriel Valley**. Most of the Chinese eateries were concentrated in **Chinatown** around Spring Street and they were primarily serving Cantonese cuisine. The first Sichuan peppery hot Chinese cuisine was called **Shanghai Restaurant** on Hollywood Blvd. It was about 20 miles from where I lived but it was well worth the extra drive. Not only did we have difficulty finding a good Chinese restaurant, we had no chance to speak our dialect or Mandarin for as long as six months. That in a nutshell was how the new immigrants lived in Southern California. Today, we can celebrate our August Moon Festival and even savor the Mid-Autumn

mooncakes airlifted from Mainland China.
(Continued on pg. 4)



One time I was with a **Taipei University** professor in a Cantonese restaurant and the waiter scolded us for not speaking Chinese. To him, Cantonese was the only Chinese he knew and it did not even enter his mind that we were talking in Mandarin. My friend was a professor and he was furious. I calmed him down and implored him to ignore the incident. I told him that the waiter was obviously uneducated and no amount of explanation could clear his misconception of the small world that he is familiar with. Just like the frog that resides inside a jar. To him the world and the universe that he is exposed to are as big as the top opening of that jar.

For some parents, they usually are resigned to the fact that their children will never learn to read and write Mandarin. Why bother with the Chinese classes on Saturday mornings? We really do not expect our children to read or write fluent Mandarin. Frankly, I have forgotten how to readily write Mandarin. However, by exposing the children to the Saturday classes, we let them come in contact with the knowledge that there was a well-developed Chinese civilization and a very rich heritage dating back almost 5000 years. The after school program with the kung-fu and dance lessons are invaluable when they go out in public to perform what they learned in school. We also encourage the lion and dragon dancers to attend the various parades. When they come together on our annual trip to **San Francisco Chinatown Parade**, they become good friends for life.

We saw many young men and women who were in the youth group during their active years with SGVCCA came to attend our August Moon Festival. I was delighted to see them in various groups exchanging ideas and pleasantries but surprised to see that they are now eligible to play the crap table game. We can see them growing up to become productive members of our society. They may have forgotten the story of our **Moon Goddess 'Zhang O'** but they came and remembered our Mid-Autumn Festival. In fact the festivities this year were in the able hands of **Beverly Chan** and **Annabelle Marlow** that are our next generation's leaders. Beverly was a natural-borne auctioneer.

Twenty years ago, most of the Chinese in Chinatown never heard of 'Zhang O' or the Mid-Autumn Festival. Today, they celebrate with many activities and we can buy different kinds of mid-autumn mooncakes from any of the Asian supermarkets. The **Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital** gave **Dr. Lim** a box of mooncakes for the health conscious people. The mooncakes did not include egg-yolk but various nuts, dates, and lotus seeds and of course, the red beans. We have come a long way and this is possible because of the diversity of the people in our association who brought with them the different cultural aspects they learned when they were in their hometowns.

—Bas & Rosie Lim

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Huy Fong Foods, Inc.'s Sriracha Performances





Notes from Newsletter Editor

2015-2016 SGVCCA Board of Directors

Bernadette Wong
President

Hung Oang
Jennifer Diep
V.P. – Education

Laurie Truong
Ann Yang
V.P. – Social Events

Kevin Fong – Performances
Victor Yu – Training
Becky Wong (Consult)
V.P. – Youth Group

V.P. – Cultural Education

Karen and Peter Lee
V.P. – Membership

Margaret Leong
Secretary

William Eng
Treasurer

Henry Leong
Ways and Means

Danny Leong
Historian

Jenny Eng
Publicity

Phillip Kirihara
Parliamentarian

Ka Yun Chan
Newsletter

Ming Liang
Ken Phong
Members-at-Large

Board Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, 7:30 PM at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 15694 Tetley St., Hacienda Heights

Hello everyone!

I'm your editor for 2015 – 2016 Newsletter! I have been a part of this association for many years and I am excited to see what new year bring! Chinese school already begun, lion dancers are performing almost every weekend and holidays celebrations are just getting started! We had a great time at August Moon Festival on Oct. 3rd and I would like to say thanks to everyone who made that happen and to our own Laurie Truong and Ann Yang for planning this event.

SGVCCA is working hard to continue its tradition of bringing everyone together to learn about our culture, performing lion and dragon dances and as well just expanding our family! If you have not filled out or renewed your membership, please print out the form on the next page and mail to us. And check out our upcoming events. I hope to see you there!

On the left, there is a list of members on the board. We are currently looking for someone to take over Cultural Education. This person will share stories of our rich history. I would love to collaborate to create series of articles similar to infamous Bas's Bridges for upcoming newsletter. If you or know anyone who is interested, please contact me via kayun.chan.3@gmail.com! If you have feedback, comments or just want to say hi, you can also reach me via email.

Also, Like us on Facebook and connect with everyone! Link: <https://www.facebook.com/SGVCCA>

Ka Yun Chan
Editor

Important Dates

October:

- 10 – Performance at Sriracha Factory *
- 17 – Performance at Sriracha Factory *
- 31 – Halloween

November:

- 1 – Daylight Saving Time ends (wind your clocks 1 hour back!)
- 26 – Thanksgiving

December:

- 5 – SGVCCA Annual Christmas Party at King Lobster
- 24 – Christmas Eve
- 25 – Christmas Day

*We meet at church at 8AM for the performances. Contact Kevin or Ka Yun for more information. SGVCCA shirt, black pants and white shoes attire is required.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CHINESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

NEW MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL FORM FOR JULY 2015-JUNE 2016

(Please print with Black or Blue Ink Pen)

Name: _____ Occupation: _____
Spouse Name: _____ Occupation: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ CA Zip Code: _____
Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone:(____) _____
Email Address: _____
Children's Names & (Ages): _____

Membership Donation: Family.....\$25.00 _____
Individual (18 yrs or older)..... \$15.00 _____

Newsletters are currently posted on the website. Please advise if you prefer to have it mailed to you: _____

I, the undersigned, hereby give permission to SGVCCA to use pictures or photographs taken of me or my family for use on its website:
www.sgvcca.com or www.lion-dragondance.org or for publication.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form and check made out to SGVCCA and send to:
SGVCCA – Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 155
West Covina, CA 91790

For the latest information on Association Activities check out:
www.sgvcca.com or www.lion-dragondance.org

The **San Gabriel Valley Chinese Cultural Association** was organized in 1968 to encourage and promote the enrichment of the Chinese language and culture and to share these interests with the community-at-large. By charter, the SGVCCA is non-political and non-sectarian and is incorporated as a non-profit, tax exempt organization, supported and maintained by the contributions and donations of its members and friends to help defray the cost of promoting the cultural and language programs.



San Gabriel Valley Chinese Cultural Association

PO Box 155, West Covina, CA 91790

www.sgvcca.com / www.lion-dragondance.org