

Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCAA) Newsletter

Issue January – February 2010 - Released on January 10, 2010

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Highlights of this issue

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1. Who Wants to Be the GCAA Treasurer? An Urgent Call for Volunteers

GCAA is currently without a treasurer. The office of the treasurer, needless to say, is very important to the operations of GCAA as s/he handles all matters financial at GCAA. The Board of Directors is currently looking for a suitable person to fill this position. You don't need to have an MBA in order to qualify as the treasurer; all that is required of a candidate for this position is willingness to serve the community, basic comfort with numbers, a commitment of some personal time (not much) to the services to be performed by the treasurer, and a principal residence in Sarasota or its neighborhood. (Like all other positions at GCAA, the position of the treasurer does not carry any pay.)

VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME!!! If interested in this position, please contact [Sean Kuang, 941-538-8525](#). We look forward to hearing from anyone who wants to have the privilege to serve.

2. Upcoming Events & Attractions --- **Mark your Calendar!!**

2010 GCAA Chinese New Year Celebration, Co-Sponsored by Sarasota Chinese Academy

You are cordially invited to join us in the

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Sponsors

The GCAA Newsletter is sponsored in part by **Feng Shui advisor-practitioner, Gigi Freeman**, member of GCAA since 2005, now available for consultations for those interested. Gigi has been practicing Feng Shui for more than 20 years under the guidance of her Chinese-Filipino-Spanish father who was knowledgeable in Feng Shui principles. She has a certificate from the New York School of Feng Shui where she studied Classical Feng Shui focused on the Compass School and Form School. Feng Shui aims to balance the environment in your home or office, very much like an "acupuncture of your living or work space" to achieve harmony in your life, promote prosperity, success, good health, and good relationships. Gigi has lived most of her life in Asia and Mexico; she moved to Venice, Florida in 2004 with her Cuban-Canadian husband, Larry. You may call her at (941) 484-3917 or (941) 932-1642 for appointments.

The GCAA Newsletter is sponsored in part by **J&K Kitchen & Bath, 4141 Tamiami Trail S.**

celebration of the Chinese New Year hosted by the Gulfcoast Chinese American Association and co-sponsored by Sarasota Chinese Academy (SCA).

Time

1:30 pm-5:00 pm, Sunday, February 14, 2010
(Chinese Lunar Calendar: 1st day of the 1st month, i.e., the Spring Festival)

Location

Girl Scouts Center (4780 Cattlemen Road, Sarasota, FL 34233; Tel.: 800-232-4475 and 941-921-5358)

Attendees

GCAA members, families, friends, and anyone interested

Refreshments and Water

- a. Mini spring rolls, sesame balls, mini desserts, curried beef tartlets, smiley-face rounded crackers with sesame to be provided by GCAA
- d. Water to be provided by GCAA

Fee

Free for GCAA members and their family; for non-GCAA members, \$10 per adult and \$5 per child, except that if one is a parent of a SCA student, then the fee is \$5 per parent; free for children under 6.

Dress

Casual

Activities

- 12:00 – 1:30 pm Site setup
- 1:30 – 2:30 pm Registration 2:00 – 2:30 pm Photos with the Dancing Lion

Sarasota, FL 34231 Phone: (941) 922-6981 Mobile: 646-831-8181 email : jk58inc@hotmail.com

The new owners, Mr. KongBiao Ni and Ms. JinXing Yang, started their business in January 2007 They warmly welcomes GCAA members and friends with a 20% discount. If you are planning a remodeling or building a custom home, put J&K to work for you. They are also hiring sales staff. If you are a good salesperson and have computer skills, please call Ms. Yang as soon as possible.

GCAA acknowledges with sincere thanks the generous support and sponsorship of the **Marco Polo Restaurant** in our past annual CNY and MAF festivities. The Marco Polo International Buffet & Grill is located at 549 US Highway 41 Bypass North, Venice, FL 34292 in Bird Bay Plaza (near Big Lots), just south of the bifurcation of Business 41. Tel: 941-412-3988. When you visit the restaurant for their wide selection of seafood (including crawdad, oyster and crab) and Chinese, Mongolian, Japanese and Italian food, please say hello to the owners: Mr. & Mrs. Lau and let them know GCAA appreciates their support.

Job Wanted

FCC parent of 2 adopted girls seeks employment. Extensive experience as award winning graphics artist and designer and creative ad director for Fortune 500 clients as well as small businesses. Also all around handyman. Willing to do anything to support my family. Please call 941-266-1882 or email JFlyer2@aol.com. Thanks.

Recommended Services

[Certified Inspection for Hurricane-Resistant Home](#)

2:30 – 5:15 pm	Performance
2:30 pm	Welcome speeches by Dr. Sean Kuang, GCAA President and Dr. Barry Zhang, SCA Principal
2:40 pm	Power Point Presentation by Ms. Libin Huang
2:50 pm	Lion Dance, by Wing Chun Shaolin Kung Fu & Lion Dance Group of Lakeland Led by Sifu Och
3:05 pm	Children’s Chorus, “Gong Xi Gong Xi” (恭喜恭喜) and distribution of Red Envelopes, by SCA students
3:15 pm	Chinese Dance, “Good Days”, by SCA students, teachers and parents
3:20 pm	Folk Melody from Anhui, China (黄梅戏), by Irene Leung, Cheyenne Kempner
3:25 pm	Children’s Dance, “Hua Mulan”, by SCA students
3:35 pm	Chorus, by Pine View School students
3:40 pm	Solo Dance, by Yan Zi
3:50 pm	Flower-Drum and Ribbon Dance, by Wenchang’s daughter, Lily’s daughter and Irene’s daughter
3:55 pm	A Riddle
4:00 pm	Caidai Dance and Daizu Dance, by Sunshine Dance Club at USF
4:10 pm	Duet for Piano and violin, “Liang Zhu”, by Janice and Ron Balazs
4:15 pm	Kongfu performance, by St Stephen’s Episcopal School

Discount

If you have purchased a hurricane resistant home or made structural improvements to your home (hurricane shutters and straps, reinforced trusses, etc.) to render it hurricane resistant, you may be entitled to substantial discounts from your homeowner’s insurance carrier. However, a written inspection report by a My-Safe-Florida-Home-certified home inspector, architect, engineer or general building contractor is required. Our GCAA member and FCC parent, Jamie Milholland is one of a few My-Safe-Florida-Home-certified home inspector in our area. Dr. Lin saved a significant amount on his homeowner’s insurance and recommends you look into whether or not you may qualify for similar savings. Give Jamie a call at 941-362-4862.

Stitches

Looking a good local seamstress for all your alteration needs, or looking for some embroidery work to be done? Well, look no further! Sara Malave, a FCC parent and magna cum laude graduate of Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising can help. Stitches is a home owned business that has been in operation since 1998. She also offers sewing camps for children at various times throughout the year. Call 366-4406 with any questions or for an appointment.

First National Travel

I have a top notch travel agent I’d like to recommend: Toni Liang of FNTC (FIRST NATIONAL TRAVEL)

- 4:25 pm Ballet (first part), by Keegan Wong, Karyssa Wong & Alura Sole
- 4:30 pm Poetry Recital, by New College students
- 4:40 pm Ballet (second part), by Keegan Wong, Karyssa Wong & Alura Sole
- 4:45 pm Chinese Fashion Show, by GCAA members and families

Please Bring

Yourself, your family and your friends

*** We need plenty of volunteers to ensure a successful event. Please contact [Sean Kuang, 941-538-8525](mailto:Sean.Kuang@GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org) or [Guoming Guan, 941-379-4180](mailto:Guoming.Guan@GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org) if you are able to volunteer. Volunteers please show up by 12:00pm on the day of the event. Thank you! ***

Grand China Buffet (3969 Cattlemen Rd., Sarasota, FL 34233), which is close to Girl Scouts Center, has generously agreed to offer a 20% discount on February 14, 2010 to any patron who comes from the above Chinese New Year celebration.

Monthly Social:

<http://www.gulfcoastchineseamerican.org/gcaa/event.html>

Our February Monthly Social will be held on February 7th at 5:30PM at Oriental Buffet
4458 Bee Ridge Rd.
(McIntosh and Bee Ridge Rd.)
Sarasota, FL 34233
Tel: 377-6699

3. Feature Articles and Helpful Information

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Who to contact about what

General info and past issues of Newsletters:
www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org for updates

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The Top 10 Asian Achievements in 2009

Seattle-based Northwest Asian Weekly has recently posted its list of the 10 Asian Americans who achieved much or whose achievements received high-profile recognition in 2009. You can read the full article at <http://www.nwasianweekly.com/2009/12/the-top-10-asian-achievements-of-2009/>

Watching Out for Your Wallet – Beware of Traps for Online Shoppers

We all know that the Internet is infested with traps for the unwary, but it's more than just the viruses or the malware. People also need to watch out for enticing deals when you are shopping online, such as “consumer discount clubs”, as exposed in the following e-brief from one of Florida's U.S. Senators, Bill Nelson.

November 19, 2009

Earlier this week, I attended a Senate Commerce Committee hearing about an insidious practice that some Internet companies are using to trick online shoppers into paying monthly fees to join so-called “consumer discount clubs.”

Consumers who frequently use the Internet for even the most ordinary of transactions—from purchasing movie tickets to looking up high school classmates—are enticed with images of rebates and other coupons. When they fill out a form to claim the savings, they might be enrolled in the “clubs” that charge a monthly fee of \$10 to \$20.

And here's the most deceptive part—they can be signed up for these clubs without ever disclosing a credit card number. The clubs partner with the website the consumer originally visited, which passes along the credit card number—and splits the profit from the monthly fee.

[com](#)

Questions about monthly Chinese movie series:
Director of: Dr. Carolyn Bloomer,
cmbloomer@comcast.net
(941) 351-0995

Other issues:
Dr. Sean Kuang,
President xkuang1@lsu.edu,
941-538-8525

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Write “Unsubscribe to GCAA Newsletter” in subject box.
Your email address will be promptly removed from the list of ALL GCAA newsletters and other electronic notifications.

As a result, consumers often do not know these companies have their credit card numbers until they start seeing unusual and unfamiliar charges on their statements.

According to a report by Commerce Committee investigators, there have been more than 30 million consumer enrollments in these clubs, and several million people are unknowingly enrolled at any one time.

If you don't think it can happen to you, listen to what Floridian Ray France told the Commerce Committee at the hearing: "I am twenty-seven years old. I use the Internet constantly. I both understand it and am able to use it with ease. I have even earned college credits in computer applications. With that said I believe it is easy to see I would not have agreed to a financial obligation I knew nothing about nor wanted. It is still unclear to me at this point how they were able to access my account. That is unless you consider the fact that this company chooses to use deceiving methods in correlation with other companies to take advantage of online consumers. This is nothing short of theft."

So what can you do to protect yourself when shopping online?

- Be wary of coupon and other savings offers that pop up after an online transaction.
- Always read the fine print before clicking on any online offer.
- Check your credit card and bank statements carefully each month for any unfamiliar charges.
- If you find a charge you suspect might be from one of these clubs, verify it with your credit card company and then report the instance to the appropriate law enforcement and business authorities. A good starting point is the Federal Trade Commission's On Guard Online [website](#).

With the holiday shopping season fast upon us, the potential for getting caught in a discount club monthly fee trap is growing exponentially. Please be careful out there, and feel free to share this information with others whom you think may be vulnerable—basically, anyone who shops online!

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