

## Sarasota/ Manatee/ Charlotte Tri-county

### Dragon Boat Festival and Asia Fest 2009



Dear Friends and Families in our tri-county communities,

You are cordially invited to join us to celebrate this month, as declared by President Obama as Asian and Pacific Islanders' Heritage Month.

We, at Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCAA), will be hosting our tri-county's very first Dragon Boat Festival and Asia Fest. Location is Coquina Beach, Bay Side, on May 30<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 2009, from 10 am to 4pm.

Coquina Beach is at the southernmost tip of Anna Maria Island, bordering Longboat Key.

You may bring your kite and kayak if available.

And do not forget your swimsuits, beach chairs and sun protection lotions,☺ although most of the sitting areas are beautifully shaded by tall pine trees. We have reserved both North and South Pavilions on the Bay Side.

RSVP: 9418220939 Irene, GCAA Secretary

Gulfcoast Chinese American  
Association Celebrates:

♪ Month of May -- The Asian  
American and Pacific Islander  
Heritage Month ♪

Sarasota/Bradenton  
**Dragon Boat Festival · Asia Fest**  
**2009**

10am~4PM

**Saturday May 30, 2009**  
Coquina Beach, Longboat Key  
(Gulf of Mexico Drive), FL  
Free Admission

Open to Our Entire Fun-Seeking  
Communities. Please join us for a day of  
Asian cultural extravaganza!



**History of Dragon  
Boat Festival**

The legend of Qu Yuan, the poet/philosopher and his political protest against a corrupt regime remains an important celebration in Chinese culture, and has become a world-wide sporting event. In the fourth century B.C., China was under political and military strife. This era is also known as the Warring States period. Qu Yuan, disgruntled with the ruler and the state of affairs, protested against the regime by jumping into the Mei Lo River. According to the legend, upon seeing their beloved poet's act of courage, local fishermen raced out with their boats in an attempt to save him. To their dismay, they arrived too late. To prevent his body from being eaten by the fish, they beat the waters furiously with their paddles and threw rice dumplings wrapped in silk into the river to distract the fish. The re-enactment of the villagers racing out to save Qu Yuan has become today's dragon boat race festival.

端午節  
龍舟節



**Activities:**

Dragon Boat Exhibit/ Story Telling/  
Kayaks/ Kites/Fishing/ Swimming  
Martial Arts Demonstration/ Costume  
Show/ Beauty Pageant  
Face Painting/ Circus Acrobats/  
Professional Photography (Costume or  
Beach Portraits)  
Arts and Crafts Sales and many more...

**Asia Food Fest:**

Chinese | Indian | Indonesian | Japanese |  
Korean | Singaporean | Vietnamese

**What to bring:**

Sunscreen, beach chairs