

Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCAA) Newsletter

Issue Jan-Feb 2009 - Released on Dec 31, 2008

[Disclaimer](#) – [Contact us](#) – [GCAA website](#)

Highlights of this issue

CNY Program & Registration

Honoring a brave soldier, a GCAA member

How to stay employed in a recession.

1a. Message from Dr. Edward Lin, Chairman of GCAA,

Dear members and friends of GCAA,

As we begin a New Year, I wish to announce that Dr. Xueji Zhang, President of GCAA will step down when his term ends on Chinese New Year 2009 and Dr. Sean Xuheng Kuang, our President-elect will assume the Presidency. We are very thankful to both gentlemen for their leadership and altruistic service to our community. I also take this opportunity to welcome and thank Pamela Ho Robbins who has joined Libin Huang and me as co-Editors of your Newsletter.

Please be sure to RSVP, pay your membership dues for free admission and join us for our annual Chinese New Year Celebration on January 24, 2009. Details are provided in this issue of the Newsletter.

Please also join us on Sunday January 4 for a special monthly social as we honor and pay tribute to one of our own members who is home briefly from active duty and will be dispatched to Afghanistan next.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Officers, Committee Chairs and the wonderful volunteers who helped to grow GCAA into what it is today, I would like to wish each one of you a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2009.

May the New Year bring you peace and joy and give you the strength and courage to overcome any challenge that may be on your road to higher success. Remember that true success is not measured by the material possessions you accumulate, but by how fulfilled you are in the good you are doing for your family and for society!

With many people unemployed or facing the risk of unemployment, I have co authored an article (see below) which will hopefully help you gain greater security. As we prepare to weather an unprecedented combination of global economic adversity, threats to peace and the environment, let's take comfort knowing that we have a leader of President-elect Obama's intelligence, character and fortitude in the White House. Let's answer his call to service and redouble our personal effort and commitment to do our part to make a positive difference.

Margaret Mead said, "Never underestimate the power of a few committed people to change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." I invite you to join hands with your GCAA volunteers, develop your leadership potential and help inspire even more people to make a positive difference. Thank you!

Ed

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

1b. Interested in working for the federal government?

Be Part of the Change...

Table of contents

1. [Message from the Chairman of GCAA](#)
2. [Program Committee reports](#)

Siming/Xiamen Relationship

3. [Schedule of GCAA activities](#)
4. [Kudos and spotlight on our members and families](#)
5. [Upcoming events & attractions](#)

China Business Workshop on January 14, 2009

6. [Feature Articles and Reports](#)

Obama Must Pursue New Relationship with China

Disappointed By Amendment 1's Defeat

Brains are Back!

7. [Helpful info and articles of interest](#)

*Avoiding Unemployment
World is Facing a Natural*

*Resources Crisis
Dr. Steven Chu named Energy
Secretary-designate*

8. [The Funnies](#)

Do you know beans?

Pearls About life

Quotes to Ponder

Learn to serve. One of the most beautiful compensations in life is that no person can help another without helping themselves -*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Lead yourself first - Leader of one, leader of many - If you can't lead one, you can't lead any.

Action is the gas in the tank; without it, the car will not run.

Success is never final and failure never fatal. It's courage that counts. -*George F. Tilton*

Many people from all walks of life have expressed a desire for new direction in Washington. But, real change requires more than desire – it requires *action*. Do you want to the opportunity to work for change in government with President Obama's administration? Here's your chance with two web sites taking applications online:

<http://www.change.gov>

<http://change.gov/page/s/application>

John Kennedy challenged a generation of Americans to "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." It is time for a new generation of Americans to face the same challenge.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

2. Program Committee Reports

Siming / Xiamen Relationship

By Dr. Carolyn Bloomer

Please watch your mailboxes for announcements soon from Dr. Bloomer on exciting events and programs regarding our Sister City relationship with Siming. Visiting artists and a seminar is being planned.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

3. Schedule of GCAA activities:

2009 CNY Announcement

Be sure to join us for our exciting 2009 CNY Celebration !

Co-hosted by GCAA and SCA (Sarasota Chinese Academy)

Where: Faith Baptist Church at T.J. Johnson Youth Center, 8751 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota, FL 34240.

Located 3-miles east of I-75 on the north side of Fruitville Road, past Deer Run Drive (but before Dog Kennel Rd.)

When: January 24 (Saturday)

Registration begins at 1PM. Set up begins at 12 noon. Please come early to help, socialize and help set-up

Note: Registration & membership processing CLOSSES at 2:15PM. You must be registered by then to enter.

Program: 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Admission: Free for dues-paid GCAA Members.

\$10 Non-members Adults -- \$5 Non-member Child

Contact: Dr. Sean Kuang, xhkuang@gmail.com, 941.538.8525

June Shi, Floridajune@gmail.com, 904.697.7395

2009 Membership Dues (\$25/family, \$15 for individual member) will be collected during registration.

If you pre-register and prepay your 2009 membership dues by mail, you can breeze through the Express Registration Line with little delay, as this year, we are requesting profile updates at the registration tables, in order to serve our members more efficiently.

Volunteers needed

to help with various programs of GCAA. This is your chance to develop personal growth and derive satisfaction at the same time by serving your community. Please contact Dr. Xueji Zhang, or Cheyenne Wu if you are willing to do your part. "We all can make a difference, and we must!"

TRANSLATORS sought to translate our GCAA newsletter into Chinese so we can reach out to the Chinese in our area who have limited proficiency in English. We are not seeking to translate the entire newsletter; we can start with a few sections that are important for helping maintain channels of contact and social activity. We also need help with translations for our website. Please volunteer to help. Thanks!

Solicitation for Articles and Reports

If you have any news or announcements of interest or pride and relevance to the GCAA, FCC and USCPFPA, please send it to elin@ingenious.com or Mrs. Libin Huang libinh@linkingbt.com or Pamela Ho Robbins pamelaho@att.net – Letters to the Editor are also welcome. Thank you.

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.

Ms.

Please indicate the number in your party and include correct amount for admission, as applicable.

The GCAA Newsletter is sponsored in part by

Please complete the attached membership form and mail with your check **no later than** Sat. Jan. 17th, so there is enough time to process the paperwork. After January 17, bring your registration papers to the event for on-site processing. Send it [payable to GCAA] to our treasurer:

J&K Kitchen & Bath, 4141 Tamiami Trail S.

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

Caroline Wan

5525 New Covington Dr

Sarasota, FL 34233

yuhongwan@yahoo.com

http://www.gulfcoastchineseamerican.org/gcaa/resources/Membership_data_form_0810.pdf

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.

ATTENTION – IMPORTANT

Due to the special vinyl flooring throughout the church facility, no one will be permitted into the building wearing stilettos, spiked heels or cleats on the bottoms of their shoes. Anyone arriving in these will be required to remove their shoes to be placed in their vehicle for safe keeping.

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.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Saturday double feature Chinese film series

******Thanks to Dr. Carolyn Bloomer, Admission is free!!!!**

Series is designed by Dr. Carolyn Bloomer to support her Cultural Beliefs course Modern China, and is co-sponsored by the Gulfcoast Chinese American Association and the Sarasota Chapter of the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association. A separate mailing will come out in two weeks with the first showing beginning the third Saturday of January. Please watch for it in your mailboxes.

Classified Ads

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Monthly Social

Chinese Classes

Please attend our January 4, 2009 monthly social for a special event honoring one of our own members who is home briefly from active duty and due to be deployed next to Afghanistan. Please RSVP your planned attendance (including the number in your party) to Irene Leung at irenel@post.com by Friday so the restaurant can plan space and waiters accordingly. Our monthly social is held at 5:30P on the first Sunday of each month. These are not official meetings, just an opportunity to meet other families who share or are interested in Chinese friendship, culture and heritage. A discount is extended to all attendees. Planning for Chinese New Year Celebration is underway and we need volunteers. The Programs Committee and other volunteers will meet earlier, at 4:30PM, to discuss planning matters. Please join them and lend a hand. This is YOUR association and it can become better with you being an active part of it. Thank you.

Conversational Mandarin taught by native speaker Pamela Ho Robbins. New classes begin in January at East-West College. For more information contact Pam at: pamelaho@att.net

Business Opportunity

For odd numbered months, Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov 2008, it will be at:

Grand China Buffet (Tel: 341-9868) 3969 Cattlemen Rd., Sarasota, FL 34233

At the southwest corner of I-75 (Exit 207) and Bee Ridge, between Burlington Coat Factory and Home Depot.

Billion dollar multi-national company is looking for entrepreneurial minded individuals who are "looking." For details contact Pam or Dale Robbins at teambuilders.srq@gmail.com (or)

(941) 822-6828

For even numbered months, Feb/Apr/June/Aug/Oct/Dec 2008, it will be at:

Oriental Buffet (Tel: 377-6699) 4458 Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota (Take Exit 207 and head west for 2 mi; turn left before MacIntosh into the plaza at the southeast intersection with McIntosh).

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Recommended Services

Registration now open for the GCAA Table Tennis Tournament III

Please contact Jason Guan guanguoming@yahoo.com, 941-379-4180

Certified Inspection for Hurricane-Resistant Home Discount

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

4. Kudos and spotlight on our members and families

Kudos (Any volunteers???)

Don't be shy. Please let us know what's happening in your family that our community should know about. We'll all crow along.

In the interest of helping members to be better acquainted with each other, we will randomly feature profiles on several members. Please contact us if you wish to be introduced. Volunteers welcome! Be sure to check each issue to see if you or someone you know has been selected for the "Spotlight." Please submit capsules of about 250 words to elin@ingenious.com, Pamela Ho, pamelaho@att.net, or Ms. Libin Huang libinh@linkingbt.com.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

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.

5. Upcoming events & attractions

For Chinese New Year celebration, we have an exciting line-up of enjoyable performances on January 24, 2009. Magic shows, modern dances, raffles for prizes, and more. Please send in your registration and RSVP as soon as possible to help us plan. Thanks!

[<Back to table of contents>](#) [Stitches](#)

Is China on your plate?

By Libin Huang

SSCA Siming Business Subcommittee Special Workshop:

Doing Business with China

--Dos & Don'ts when navigating the China market

When: January 14, 2009 Wednesday 3:00-6:00pm

Where: MCC Lakewood Ranch, Selby Room (No.116-117)

7131 Professional Pkwy. E., Sarasota, FL 34240

Whether the word "China" fits into your recent business strategy or whether you are simply curious, please come and join us in an interactive and informative workshop hosted by the Siming Business Subcommittee of Sarasota Sister Cities Association (SSCA), the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Corporation.

This exciting event, designed for Sarasota business community, will include informative presentations from international business development organizations; local entrepreneurs successfully dealing with China; and a summary report from SSCA special envoy, Ms. Irene Leung, who recently returned from a 5-day exploration of unique products/business opportunities in our sister city of Xiamen.

Panel speakers: (in the sequence of presentation)

- Dr. Carolyn Bloomer, SSCA City Director for relations with Siming (Xiamen) China, Professor at Ringling College.
- Ms. Libin Huang, Chair of Siming Business Subcommittee, Managing Director of Linking Businesses & Technologies, LLC.
- Mr. John Diep, Asia Director, Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- Mr. Adam Sulimirski, Sarasota entrepreneur, CEO/President of Marex.
- Ms. Irene Leung, SSCA Vice City Director for relations with Siming (Xiamen) China and Special Envoy, CEO/president of Global Kecci, LLC.

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 kamps 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)

3166 CHESTNUT DR
CONNECTOR

SUITE 101

ATLANTA GA 30340

TELEPHONE: 678 530 0840 or 800-888-0208

FAX : 678 530 0768

Email: toni.liang@att.net

This Special Workshop consists of two parts:

- 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm: Interactive Panel presentation & discussion.
- 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm: Casual networking and product display. Warm Chinese dim sum, "Floral Garden" tea, snacks and refreshment will be served during this time.

For sale

CHINESE FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES FOR SALE:

Cost: \$20 per person, includes Workshop, Networking, soft drinks & refreshment.

Event Registration: <http://sites.google.com/site/sscasbs/Home/> or RSVP Siminginfo@gmail.com

GCAA member Lolly Baerveldt has closed her store, China Trade, after more than 20 years. Persons interested in purchasing items remaining in her warehouse, should contact Lolly at lollyb2310@comcast.net.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

HOUSE FOR SALE:

6. Feature Articles and Reports

Obama Must Pursue New Relationship with China

By Stephen A. Orlins

When our grandchildren look back at the Obama administration's foreign policy, they will measure its success by the success of our relationship with China. No international relationship will have greater impact on the 21st century. What does this mean, though, in terms of what the president-elect should do immediately? My advice to President-elect Obama is simple: Go early and go often.

Obama needs to go early because this will help to dispel the strategic mistrust that exists between the U.S. and China, mistrust that is the single greatest impediment to solving the problems confronting our two great nations, and the world at large. January 1 is the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and will be a day to consider the extraordinary changes in our relations with China and within China itself.

And he must go often, because this new cooperative phase in U.S.-China relations will allow us to deal more effectively with the global economic crisis, climate change, energy security, pollution, pandemics, terrorism, the proliferation of nuclear weapons and WMD, not to mention threats such as North Korea and Iran. The distrust that still colors U.S.-China relations comes from decades during which the threat of military confrontation over Taiwan loomed large. But times have changed.

When I was a student there 36 years ago, Taiwan faced a different mainland China across the Strait, and China faced a different Taiwan. In March the people of Taiwan elected a president committed to closer association with China and set in motion forces that are promoting further economic and social integration. The Chinese government is implementing policies that will lead to reconciliation with the people of Taiwan. America's policy in the region has not, however, adapted to this new reality.

Obama can change this. On his first trip to China, Obama should say unequivocally, and directly to the Chinese people, that the United States supports a peace agreement between mainland China and Taiwan, and that closer relations between the two are in the best interests of the United States. This would fundamentally alter China's perception of America and allow for progress on numerous fronts. The new atmosphere would allow for productive discussions on human rights, the successor treaty to the Kyoto accords, reduction of non-tariff trade barriers, increasing China's imports, participation in the international stabilization fund and most importantly how we jointly confront the international financial crisis.

Low-hanging fruit for such a visit would be commitments from China to purchase Westinghouse AP 1000 reactors for more of China's 24 nuclear power plants on the drawing board (currently they have contracted for four) and to engage in joint initiatives in clean coal technology and renewable energy. All of these have the added advantage of generating the kinds of jobs we want in America. (Sale of each reactor generates thousands of high paying jobs in the U.S., including thousands in western Pennsylvania.) Reduced mistrust will create new transparency from China's military planners and improved military to military contacts and China's participation in the 1,000-ship navy could begin to be discussed.

While the Chinese leadership is infinitely more responsive to the will of the Chinese people than when I first went to China 30 years ago, power still resides in the nine-member Politburo. The head of the Chinese Communist Party is the most powerful. The relationship that Obama develops with President Hu (who remains in office until 2012) during these bilateral visits, G8 meetings and other gatherings will influence the path that China takes, improve U.S.-China relations, and determine the world we

Lovely freshly painted Bruce Williams Laurel Hill pool home features 2 bedrooms and a large den which could easily be converted to a 3rd bedroom. 1673 SF under central air, 2241 SF under roof. Home has extensive upgrades to include a waterfall pool with 6 ft. private fence, security system, hurricane film windows, built-in surround sound. Lanai is extended and home is located near shopping, hospital, entertainment and excellent schools! Ask **\$269,900** or lease at \$1400/month. Sarasota MLS Number: 361389; Manatee MLS Number: 562214. Please contact Henry Zhu at <mailto:henxiangzhu@hotmail.com> or 941-907-9178.

HOUSE FOR SALE:

3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2,209 SF Lakefront home built in 2000 on quiet cul de sac.

Adjacent to Pine View School and Oscar Scherer State Park

LR, FR, separate dining room, full kitchen with Corian counter top

All appliances, microwave etc. an island counter and dinette,

laundry room; Tiled foyer, hallway, kitchen, dinette, laundry and bathrooms.

Screened lanai with in ground solar heated swimming pool

land area is 12,251 sq. ft. Asking \$369,000 Ginger Spencer (941) 400-3924

FOR SALE:

leave to our children. Thirty years ago, I sat in the State Department working on the establishment of diplomatic relations with China. None of us imagined that U.S.-China relations would develop the way that they have or that China would lift hundreds of millions out of poverty and give its people choices they never had in the 1970s. Obama has already become the kind of leader many Americans have been waiting for, someone who reminds us to ask the big questions. Robert Kennedy was fond of quoting George Bernard Shaw: "Some see things as they are and ask why; I dream things that never were and ask why not."

With a new leader here at home, we are ready to dream something new for America's role in the world. We are beginning to believe again that we can create something new in our country — and in our relationship with China.

The Chinese people and the Chinese leadership eagerly await an American president who knows that the 21st century requires a changed relationship with China, and who will embrace the opportunities that will bring.

<Editor's note: Stephen Orlins is president of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations>

From News Services (Atlanta Journal Constitution)

<http://www.ajc.com/opinion/content/opinion/stories/2008/12/22/orlinsed.html>

[<Back to table of contents>](#) Plus

Disappointed by Florida Amendment One's Defeat

Continue to Fight the Repeal Alien Land Law 1926

OCA-South Florida Chapter, one of 80 chapters and college affiliates of a national Asian Pacific American organization, is disappointed that Amendment 1 -- Alien Land Law 1926 -- was defeated on Tuesday, 11/4/08, apparently because some voters incorrectly assumed it would prevent illegal immigrants from owning property.

On the day when Florida helped make history by giving its Electoral College votes to the first African-American president, Florida also voted to keep, in its Constitution, an 80-year-old discriminatory provision that every other state has purged from its governing document.

On November 4, 52% of Florida voters voted "No" to keep this outdated provision. By opposing this measure, some voters erroneously believed this old law could be used to prevent foreign terrorist groups or illegal immigrants from buying real estate.

Most importantly, 48% of over 3.4 million Floridians (including most civil rights and immigrant groups) supported this initiative without any resistance.

Here is a brief history behind this provision.

The Alien Land Law was originated in the early 1900s. It was feared that Asian immigrants, primarily those from Japan, would work for less on farms and saved up money to buy land. American farmers felt threatened. In 1913, California was the first state to adopt the policy of "alien land laws" banning foreigners ineligible for citizenship to own or purchase any land or property based on their ethnicity. At that time, Asian immigrants were the only group not permitted to become citizens.

In 1926, the law was added to the Florida Constitution in Article I, Section 2 because Floridians worried that Japanese farmers, 30,000 of whom had been tossed off their farms by alien land laws in California, would come East.

This measure was based on two Naturalization laws: the original Naturalization Act of 1790 provided that "[a]ny alien being a free white person... may be admitted to become a citizen..." This was amended in 1870, after the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, to provide that naturalization be permitted only of "aliens, being free white persons and to aliens of African nativity and to persons of African descent".

Others were referred to as "aliens ineligible to citizenship".

Asian-American groups began a state-by-state campaign to remove this vestige of the Jim Crow era. Kansas, Wyoming and New Mexico were the most recent states to do so. Florida should have done so on Tuesday, 11/4.

Prior to the Election, Florida voters were confused with the language of Amendment 1 on the long paper ballot. They wanted to know what a "Yes" vote would mean, since it read, "Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to delete provisions authorizing the Legislature to regulate or prohibit the ownership, inheritance, disposition, and possession of real property by aliens ineligible for citizenship."

Computer+Monitor with full software suite:

HP Pavilion 750n Desktop Computer

Pentium 4 1.6GHz Processor

80GB ATA Hard Drive

16x CD Burner

16x DVD ROM

512 MB DDR RAM

32MB NVIDIA TNT2 M64 Graphics Card

HP Multimedia Keyboard

Logitech Optical USB Mouse

Polk Audio Speakers

17" Dell CRT Monitor

Windows XP Professional SP3

Microsoft Office 2003 Pro

Avast! Antivirus Home Edition

Asking \$125. Call Bryan 966-0890

HP OfficeJet G85 Multi-tasking photo quality color/ B&W network printer, scanner, fax, copier. \$130

Call Bryan 966-0890

Who to contact about what

General info and past issues of Newsletters:

www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org for updates

Info and articles to be included in upcoming issues of Newsletter:

Editor, Mrs. Libin Huang libinh@linkingbt.com
(248) 701-0878

Co-editor, Pamela Ho-Robbins

ewc.sarasota@gmail.com

Matters relating to GCAA Programs:

After Election 2008, Florida remains the only state to still have such an outdated law in its Constitution. Co-Director, Dr. Sean Kuang, xkuang1@lsu.edu, 941-538-8525

"OCA doesn't think the defeat of the Amendment 1 meant that Floridians are against Asian Americans. This is simply a misinterpretation of the language," states Winnie Tang, President of Organization of Chinese American – South Florida Chapter. "Even an attorney friend of mine thought that a "No" vote would delete the provision." Co-Director, June Shi, floridajune@gmail.com

"After this defeat of six years hard-work, it only energizes us to work more closely with the state legislature to get this in the 2010 ballot," continued Tang. "We would like to thank the media for getting this information to the public and a coalition will be formed so that we will be better prepared for 2010." Matters relating to membership and how to join Co-Director of Membership, Linda Fung elfunkkee@verizon.net; 941 918-8505

"It is unfortunate that the language of the provision was unclear and may have allowed people to believe that this law would help illegal immigrants gain benefits or access," voices Josephine Gordy, member of the Miami-Dade County of Asian American Advisory Board. "We will continue our efforts to outreach and educate the public on this part of our state history." Matters relating to monthly socials
Irene Leung, Secretary irenel@post.com , 646-251-7714

"Although this law is not enforceable, we need to delete it from the Constitution," states Dr. Joy Bruce, President of NANAY. "Otherwise, this will be kept in the book from generation to generation as it is now. That's why we will continue to fight until it gets deleted."

Matters relating to sports programs

"As I had experienced the climate in which language such as the Alien Land Law was acceptable, it is with great satisfaction that I see that almost all the states have rescinded this law," states Dennis Murasaki, member of Japanese American Citizen League – Atlanta Chapter. "With time Florida voters also will remove this law, closing a dark chapter in our country's history." Jason Guan guanguoming@yahoo.com, 941-379-4180

Jason Liu Liu5051@hotmail.com, (941) 923-2959

For more information, please contact Winnie Tang at 305-753-8791 or visit [OCA-South Florida Chapter](#).

GCAA website

www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Barry Zhang,
WebMaster: bzhang@comcast.net

Asst. WebMaster John Zhu
juntaozhu15@yahoo.com

Brains Are Back!

By: Michael Hirsh/Newsweek

After eight years of proud incuriosity and anti-intellectualism, we now have a leader who values nuance and careful thought.

Published Nov 7, 2008

For two days now, Americans have celebrated the idea that we may have finally atoned for our nation's original sin, slavery, along with its long legacy of racism. We can rejoice in the world's accolades over the election of a multicultural African-American to the presidency after nearly eight years of cringing in shame as the Bush administration methodically curdled our Constitutional values and sullied our global reputation as a beacon of hope. Every once in a while, it seems, we Americans do manage to live up to our ideals rather than betray them. Hooray!

I am just as happy as everyone else over all this global good feeling. But there's something else that I'm even happier about—positively giddy, in fact. And the effects of this change are likely to last a lot longer than the brief honeymoon Barack Obama will enjoy as a symbol of realized ideals. What Obama's election means, above all, is that brains are back. Sense and pragmatism and the idea of considering-all-the-options are back. Studying one's enemies and thinking through strategic problems are back. Cultural understanding is back. Yahooism and jingoism and junk science about global warming and shabby legal reasoning about torture are out. The national culture of flag-pin shallowness that guided our foreign policy is gone with the wind. And for this reason as much as any, perhaps I can renew my pride in being an American.

I'm under no illusion that Barack Obama will turn out to be Barack Panacea. In terms of holding a major office, he's the least experienced president in memory. He'll probably screw up a lot of things, especially at first. The problems he faces—from the economic crisis to Iran's nuclear program—are just too hard. And I occasionally worry that in his eloquent eagerness to empathize and reach across cultural barriers, Obama may overreach in the opposite direction from Bush, stumbling into the appeasement of adversaries like Iran (whose buffoonish president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, practically invited him to do so this week by sending him the first letter of congratulations from Tehran, to a president-elect, since 1979). Obama must also guard against the sort of intellectual arrogance that characterized the "best and the brightest" of the Vietnam era.

But, frankly, these are all risks worth taking after nearly eight years of a president who could barely form a coherent sentence, much less a strategic thought. We can finally go back to respecting logic

Community Relations

Director of: Dr. Carolyn Bloomer,
cmbloomer@comcast.net (941) 351-0995

Other issues:

Dr. Xueji Zhang, President
zxj001us@yahoo.com 941- 926-3273

How to unsubscribe to this Newsletter:

Please send email to

elin@ingenious.com or pamelaho@att.net

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.

Featured Links

and reason and studiousness under a president who doesn't seem to care much about what is "left," "right" or ideologically pure. Or what he thinks God is saying to him. A guy who keeps religion in its proper place—in the pew. It's no accident that Obama is the first Northern Democrat to be elected president since John F. Kennedy. The Sun Belt politics represented by George W. Bush—the politics of ideological rigidity, religious zealotry and anti-intellectualism—"has for the moment played itself out," says presidential historian Robert Dallek.

Chinese American Heroes:

<http://www.chineseamericanheroes.org/>

From the very start of his campaign, Obama has given notice that whatever you might think about his policies, they will be well thought out and soberly considered, and that as president he will not be a slave to passion or impulse. While his GOP opponent, a 72-year-old who has battled skin cancer, was cynically deciding for political reasons that a woman who apparently did not know that Africa is a continent rather than a country should be a heartbeat away from the presidency, Obama was setting up work groups to study every major international issue and region of the world. Through three debates with John McCain, he refused to be baited into personal attacks. And the more we have learned about his transition process, the clearer it becomes that he intends to be that kind of president as well. Against the very political concerns of some of his loyalists that he, the candidate of "change," is bringing too many ex-Clintonites on board, he is dispassionately welcoming-in the best brains (like Larry Summers, Laura Tyson and Gene Sperling) and most experienced hands (considering an extension of Bob Gates's tenure at the Pentagon, for instance). He is actively considering other Republicans for high posts.

Here visitors can read about great scientists and seemingly "ordinary" Chinese Americans who are anything but.

I am particularly touched to read about Betty Ann Ong who made such crucial contribution to the 911 Commission through her immense courage. What an incredible lady! She makes all of us proud.

--- Edward Lin

How very presidential. And how very unusual.

One tragedy of the Bush administration is the amount of American brainpower and talent that went unused, the options that went unconsidered, because they were seen to lack ideological purity. That era is over as we confront a desperate landscape—a serious recession and two prolonged wars. While he hasn't yet invoked Franklin Roosevelt, Obama seems to be embracing FDR's pragmatic approach in 1933—knowing that what the country may need, economically and politically, is not so much an organized program but a hodgepodge of bold experiments like the New Deal. "It is common sense to take a method and try it," FDR said back then. "If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something." Obama is judiciously hurrying to push through another stimulus package—and will probably shelve his raise-taxes-on-the-rich plan for the moment—while he is just as judiciously avoiding the Nov. 15 global economic summit Bush has scheduled for next week (because it will tie him too closely to Bush's failed policies). "I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face," Obama said in his acceptance speech in Chicago Tuesday night. If he holds to that pledge and nothing else, we'll be OK.

So anything seems possible now, even when it comes to the toughest issues. What might be the result if, say, Obama decided to put Richard Holbrooke (one of the toughest and smartest negotiators in the country) in charge of negotiating with the Taliban, and Bill Clinton in charge of hashing things out with the Palestinians—telling both of them to come back only when they've got a deal? Anything could happen. Maybe even something good.

Victors, it is said, write the history. Obama is now about to write America's new history. Unless I mistake my man, its theme will be that reason and sense and that cardinal American virtue—pragmatism—are going to rule once again. And that's really something to celebrate.

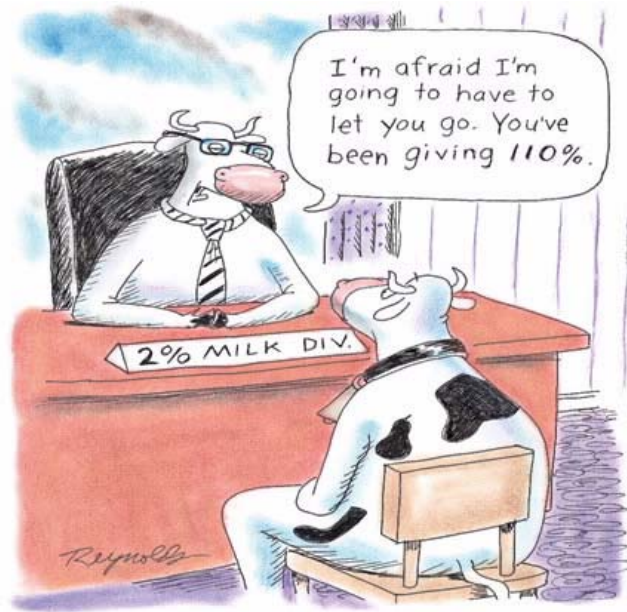
<http://www.newsweek.com/id/168032>

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

7. Helpful info and articles of interest

A primer on how to avoid unemployment during the recession

By Dr. Edward Lin & Nancy Wettlaufer



In these difficult economic times, many people are getting laid off, often with little or no notice. Valuable employees who are well-rounded in their skill set and have a great reputation as team players and volunteers are the last ones to get a pay cut or be laid off during an economic downturn—and the first ones to be hired back when things improve. Another way to enhance your value is to attend professional conferences. This helps keep your skills current and increases your professional network, both of which will become critical when you begin to look for a new job.

Let's assume that the tsunami has hit and you've been given 30-days' notice. Don't despair! Many a "setback" turns out later to be a blessing in disguise. Face life's challenges with a positive attitude and you will grow both personally and professionally. Your immediate opportunity now is a new full time job in sales and marketing—yourself! Finding a job requires intensive effort and perseverance. In the end it's a numbers game: the more time you put in (and rejections you receive) the closer you will be to accomplishing your goal.

FIRST: Clear the air. Deal with the emotions that often accompany the loss of a job. Try to get past blame and anger, accept the situation, and adopt a positive attitude. This new challenge could provide an opportunity to change directions in your life. "One door closes, another opens." Many find a support group of friends facing similar problems helpful for sharing information and feelings during this emotional roller coaster ride. If your company provides professional outplacement counseling, be sure to take advantage of this as well. Don't forget to file for unemployment benefits to help tide you over this rough patch.

SECOND: Create a Contacts List to work from. Most job openings and interview opportunities are found through referrals by a friend, family member or work colleague. If you are a team player and have been attending conferences and actively volunteering, you already have a large network of friends and business contacts. Let your contacts know right away that you are looking for a new job so they can keep their eyes open for you. Meeting with willing contacts for a practice interview can also be a good way to perfect your sales pitch

In addition, there are many "virtual" opportunities for networking. You can set up a professional and interesting profile on LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com) and Xing (www.xing.com), two of the largest professional networking sites on the web. LinkedIn is the largest and more US-centric, whereas Xing is more Euro-centric. Like a computer, sites like LinkedIn will be as useful to you as you know how to use them. Invest the time to understand the system and its abilities. I have over 1700 direct connections on LinkedIn, and it has proven extremely useful to me. I recently completed a software project working with programmers in St. Petersburg, Russia!

THIRD: Develop or Revise Key Materials: A résumé, Cover Letter and Business Card:

There are many good books and websites you will want to refer to. One of the most tried and true general references is *What Color is your Parachute?* It has been around for years and is updated annually and covers all aspects of a job search. If you do not already have a professional looking business card, a good site to consult is <http://www.vistaprint.com>. For creating great résumés and cover letters read Tom Jackson's *The Perfect résumé* or go to his website (<http://www.careervictory.com/>), where you will find a step by step résumé builder.

An effective résumé is usually a prerequisite to get you in the door; it is a necessary summary of your qualifications for the hiring manager to refer to (if you're lucky) before, during, and after the interview. A cover letter is even more important than the résumé itself for helping you land the interview and

eventually the job. Both should convey the benefits YOU CAN BRING to the organization, rather than what you're looking for! Think from the perspective of your prospective employer and ask yourself, "How will this candidate benefit my organization and why should I hire him?" Draft several good cover letters, one each for the several types of jobs for which you are qualified. A good résumé is the product of many hours of repeated polishing. Consider a complete re-write of your résumé if you have not invested much effort in it before. Google "Ron Bates" and listen to his seminar on "How to convey your executive value proposition." In it he points out the common serious errors in résumés he has seen. Also read his article on "How to get a job": <http://ezinearticles.com/?How-To-Get-A-Job&id=323934>

FOURTH: For some positions, it may be helpful to contact and get to know a handful of recruiters who specialize in recruiting people with your background. Good recruiters receive innumerable résumés daily. You must do the work to get your résumé to the top of the pile and be at or near the forefront of his consciousness. So, simply submitting a résumé just won't do!! You need to get on the phone and avail yourself to the recruiter to conduct a favorable interview of YOU. This means you've got to prepare first. If you fail to impress the recruiter, he will not present your résumé to his clients. It's that simple! Developing a deep, professional relationship takes time and it's better to start sooner rather than later.

FIFTH: Visit job bulletin boards and set up Google Alerts using every set of search strings which would help you find the type of job you'd be willing to accept. Be sure to increase your activity and presence in your local community job banks, Chamber of Commerce, etc. so your presence and availability is known.

Follow up with all your contacts to see if any leads have come through that you can follow. If you've got time on your hands, get down to the local food bank or soup kitchen and pitch in. This will be a valuable experience. You may be surprised by the people you meet while volunteering at the soup kitchen. People who are truly successful tend to be "givers." They know that the more they give, the more they'll get back. Start experiencing the joy of giving by serving your community. It'll open your heart, if not also doors.

SIXTH: Be creative; try everything. Keep a positive attitude and never give up. Be sure to follow-up on ALL your interviews and thank the interviewers—EVEN IF you get turned down. Keep the door open because unexpected developments happen. The company's first-choice candidate may end up accepting a different offer and guess who is #2 on the list? Believe in yourself and make self-improvement your habit and your life-long goal. With a positive can-do attitude, you'll soon land another—perhaps even better—job. You will see it when you believe it.

Good luck.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

World is Facing a Natural Resources Crisis: Worse than the Financial Crunch

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/oct/29/climatechange-endangeredhabitats>

The above is the title covering a two page article in *The Guardian*, in the London's publication of last Wednesday. The Guardian's article is based on a Report by "*The Living Planet*," lead by the conservation group WWF, formerly the World Wildlife Fund. The figures contained in the report are based on a UN Report which calculated the economic value of services provided by ecosystems destroyed annually, such as diminished rainfall for crops or reduced flood protection.

Following synopses are highlights of the Report's findings:

- 1) The world is heading for an "**Ecological Credit Crunch**" far worse than the current financial crisis because humans are over using the natural resources of the planet.
- 2) The Report calculates that humans are using 30% more resources than the Earth can replenish each year.
- 3) We are running up an ecological debt of \$4 trillion to \$4.5 trillion every year - double the estimated losses made by the world's financial institutions as a result of the current credit crisis.
- 4) The problem is also getting worse as populations and consumption keep growing faster than technology finds new ways of expanding what can be produced from the natural world.
- 5) The Report predicts that at the above rates humans would need two planets to provide for their wants and sustain their lifestyle in the 2030s, two decades earlier than the previous Living Planet report forecast just two years ago. According to the Report, this figure is conservative as it does not include the risk of the acceleration of climate change.

6) The Report contains for the first time detailed information on the "Water Footprint" of every country and claims that 50 countries are already experiencing "moderate to severe water stress on a year-round basis." It also shows that 27 countries are "importing" more than half the water they consume - in the form of water used to produce goods from wheat to cotton.

7) In the 1960s most countries lived within their ecological resources. The latest figures, according to the Report, show that today three-quarters of the world population live in countries which consume more than they can replenish.

8) The US and China account for more than two-fifths of the planet's ecological footprint*, with 21% each.

* **Ecological Footprint:** The average amount of land, air, fresh water and sea used up per person in each country measured in hectares.

And on a related subject...

Nobel-laureate physicist tapped for US Energy Secretary

By Dr. Edward Lin

Americans can take great comfort that President-elect Obama intends to nominate Nobel-laureate physicist Steven Chu for this crucial post.

For the US, energy is the national security issue of the 21st century. As the Director of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Chu has built up the Lab, with a budget of \$645 million and staff of 4,000. Chu has demonstrated not only incomparable scientific expertise on energy and alternative fuels but also exceptional ability to attract multidisciplinary talent.

One example is the harvesting of switch grass (a tall weed) which yields a higher biomass than corn while using far less water and fertilizer. The switch grass cellulose is broken down into sugars and fed to bioengineered algae which produce a much higher yield of biofuel.

Ethanol from corn is an unsustainable alternative energy source because it takes more fuel to produce each gallon of corn-based ethanol than it yields. Intensive use of polluting fertilizer and irrigation are also required to grow corn for fuel which has led to a sharp rise in food costs. Not only does this directly impact the average American family, the reduced buying power of each dollar for food has resulted in a sharp drop in the amount of food subsidies the US and international relief agencies can provide the starving poor in third-world nations. Closer to home, ever enlarging dead zones in the Gulf of Mexico are forming from excessive fertilizer discharge. One such dead zone is now the size of the state of New Jersey!

Steven Chu is the perfect person for this job to lead us out of our energy crises and set an example of energy conservation for the world. He is far better qualified than other alternative candidates mentioned such as Govs. Schwarzenegger or Sibelius. Among the contenders, Chu is the only one with the intellect and knowledge to understand not (and not be "scientifically duped") to go chasing after a mythical energy golden goose. It remains to be seen whether this brilliant scientist and proven administrator who is not beholden to big oil and industry lobbyists can gain confirmation.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Q: Can the presidential candidates keep their campaign money?

A: No. They can donate any contributions they haven't spent to charities or political parties, and they can pay leftover campaign bills. The big rule is: no personal use.

What candidates can't do with leftover money is use it for personal expenses. Retiring federal lawmakers used to be able to pocket extra cash and use it for cars, vacations, clothes, pet grooming, whatever - but that changed in 1989 with the passage of the [Ethics Reform Act](#).

8. The Funnies

A very interesting exercise...

Can you find a man in the beans?

Yes, the man is really there!!!

Doctors have concluded that if you find the man in the coffee beans in 3 seconds, then the right half of your brain is better developed than most people.

If you find the man between 3 seconds and 1 minute, the right half of the brain is developed normally.

If you find the man between 1 minute and 3 minutes, then the right half of your brain is functioning slowly and you need to eat more protein.

If you have not found the man after 3 minutes, the advice is to look for more of this type of exercise to make that part of the brain stronger!!!

And what does the doctor who said the above know? *Beans!*

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Disclaimer

This Newsletter is intended for private distribution to members and friends of GCAA. No information herein may be used for solicitation. Unauthorized duplication and distribution prohibited. Except where indicated by specific author(s) or source(s), the content of this newsletter is the product of Dr. Edward Lin, Ms. Pamela Ho Robbins and Ms. Libin Huang of GCAA. All opinions expressed are those of their respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the official views of GCAA.

Please note: if you feel you should be on our email list and for some reason are not receiving this newsletter and other GCAA notices, please help us amend our database by sending an email to Mr. Jian Wang jian@doctorhan.com and Ms. Linda Fung at elfunkkee@verizon.net with copy to elin@ingenious.com. Thank you. To unsubscribe, see instructions at end of newsletter.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)