

**Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCCA) Newsletter
Jan-Feb Issue, 2006 (release date January 2, 2006)**

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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 elin@ingenious.com with copy to Dr. Zhu at hexiangzhu@Hotmail.com. Thank you.

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Your GCAA Newsletter is sponsored in part by Anthony Olson, PA,

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info@immigrationvisausa.com

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URGENT or TIME-SENSITIVE NOTICES:

If your children wish to participate in singing Chinese songs for the Chinese New Year (CNY) celebration, a practice is scheduled on Friday, Jan 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 at the home of an FCC family. Please email Mary Lisa Millbourn (bdmilbo@comcast.net) or call her at 351-5550 for directions to Diana's home. If Friday won't work for you, please contact Mary Lisa.

The January monthly social moved to Jan 8 at Grand China Buffet beginning at 5:30P.

Programs Committee meets at 4:30P to discuss CNY plans. We need help with registration, set up and take down. See CNY article below for details

News of the Association by Dr. Edward Lin

Dear Friends and families of GCAA,

As we begin a new year, I am pleased to announce that our organization has grown steadily to over 100 dues-paying members and over 200 on our mailing list. We probably have thus far reached only 50% of Chinese American families in our tri-county area. Please help spread the

news of our Association and encourage anyone with an interest in Chinese culture and friendship to join. Our first ever GCAA directory is going to press and all members who have paid their dues will receive a copy on January 29, Chinese New Year. If you would like to advertise your business in the GCAA directory or in our newsletter, please contact Dr. Zhu at hexiangzhu@Hotmail.com immediately. The deadline for inclusion of your ad in the GCAA directory is January 6.

As our membership grows with the inclusion of members of USCPFA (US China Peoples Friendship Association) and FCC (Families with Children From China), we are blessed with an infusion of new friendships and treasured bonds, new energies and ideas. As Editor of the GCAA Newsletter, I am pleased to inform you that our newsletter will be published bimonthly (6X per year) instead of quarterly beginning with this issue. The deadline for submission of news articles for the March-April issue is 2/20/06.

The Nominating Committee, comprising of Drs. Hammond Chen, Gilbert Hwong and Richard Chen met on November 20 and unanimously recommended continuing the present slate of officers for re-election on January 29, 2006:

- 1) Dr. Edward Lin, President
- 2) Dr. Kevin Hu, VP – Information and Communication
- 3) Dr. Xueji Zhang, VP – Programs & Management
- 4) Dr. Jonathan Fong, VP – Community Relations
- 5) Mrs. Helen Pollak, Secretary
- 6) Ms. Nancy Cao, Treasurer

The nomination process is open to all dues-paying members and shall be seconded by another dues-paying member in accordance with parliamentary election guideline. Nominations can also be made from the floor on election day on January 29.

Since the official incorporation of GCAA on August 29, 2005, I have had the pleasure and privilege of working many outstanding individuals who have contributed much to the growth of our nascent organization. Aside from my fellow officers, Committee chairpersons and committee members who have been superb team players, I would like to specifically nominate the following individuals for a seat on the GCAA Board of Directors:

Dr. Carolyn Bloomer, a cultural anthropologist and professor at the Ringling School of Art. Dr. Bloomer has a collection of over 150 Chinese movies and she has generously agreed to share them with us. We will be hosting regularly showings at Ringling, with a nominal donation per person to benefit the GCAA.

Ms. May Jang is an entrepreneur who owns the China Express restaurants in our area. Since joining GCAA recently, May has been active helping us with our CNY planning.

Ms. Tracey La, a junior majoring in Hospitality Management at USF, has been an exemplary volunteer. As co-chairperson of the Programs Committee, Tracey together with Jinbo Yin, have consistently demonstrated the very best of volunteerism and community service.

The nominations above, are subject to a confirmation vote by the general membership on January 29.

In closing, and on behalf of all GCAA officers, committee members and other volunteers, we wish each and every one of you good health and happiness throughout 2006. We also invite and urge you to help in anyway you can to make GCAA an even better cultural, service and educational organization. Your participation can make a positive difference and the sense of fulfillment you get in the process is priceless.

Sincerely,

Ed

REMINDER AND HELP NEEDED: I receive quite a few email requests for info, (about dates, times and places, who to contact about what, etc.) that have already been provided in each issue of the newsletter. While each individual request takes only a few minutes, they all add up to a considerable amount of correspondence and time. Please kindly read each Newsletter carefully and save current and past issues for reference. In particular, please note our monthly social restaurant schedules for 2006. Thank you.

We are looking for volunteers for our Info & Communications team to handle newsletter mailing and translate an abbreviated version of our Newsletter into Chinese for a small number of GCAA members who do not have email or have limited comprehension of English. We'd like to deliver about 5 copies to each of the major Chinese restaurants in our area for the workers. We'd also like to develop a website for more instantaneous communication and updates. Please contact Drs. Kevin Hu (923-3712 Sarasota) or Henry Zhu (758-2051 Bradenton) if you can assist. Thank you.

GCAA PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

By Ms. Tracey La

Our Programs Committee endeavors to serve our Association members via fun, cultural, social and educational events such as Chinese New Year, Mid Autumn Festival, and Dragon Boat Festival, and Chinese film screenings.

We are working very hard preparing for the most important and exciting holiday of the year, Chinese New Years!!! It will be lunar year 4707. The celebration will be held at the Venice Community Center on Sunday January 29 from 4P to 8P. Please mark your calendars to join us for this fun event. We will be featuring Chinese Lion dancing by Tang's Martial Arts Center, performance by the children of Families with Children from China along with the children of GCAA, a musical variety show from GCAA members and family, video of Chinese New Year celebration in China through satellite feed, Chinese New Year dinner from Marco Polo Restaurant, lucky red envelopes for children in a special age group, raffle prizes, and possibly some Chinese Trivia contest! So put your thinking caps on, get prepared, loosen your belts, and come join the fun!!!

Please NOTE the following information for discounted reservations and attendance:

I met separately with 20 executives

Please email your reservation to rspv4event@gmail.com AND provide:

(1) Name of the party (2) Number of adults and ages of children attending, and (3) mail your checks in correct amount payable to GCAA to:

Gulfcoast Chinese American Association

3999 24th St. West # 220

Bradenton, FL 34205

Discounted admission for reservations made by 1/20/2006:

GCAA Members:

Adult \$10.00

Child (age 5-12) \$5.00

Child under 5 free

Non-members:

Adult \$16.00

Child (age 5-12) \$8.00

Child under 5 free

Admission for reservations made after 1/20/2006 (or at the door subject to space availability):

GCAA Members:

Adult \$15.00
Child (age 5-12) \$7.50
Child under 5 free

Non-members:

Adult \$20.00
Child (age 5-12) \$10.00
Child under 5 free

You can qualify for GCAA member rates by paying the \$20/year membership dues when sending in your payment for advance registration OR at the door. It is never too late to join GCAA.

“Considered the single most important holiday of the Lunar Calendar, Chinese New Year is a time for reunion and thanksgiving, for reflecting on our blessings and looking forward to the future. Exclamations of “Sing Nian Kwai Le!” (Happy New Year!), the scent and sound of firecrackers exploding in the air and cymbals clashing in unison to the acrobatic antics of the lion dance are traditional New Year sights and sounds.

2006 is the year of the Dog and begins on Sunday January 29. It is the eleventh of the twelve zodiac animals in the Chinese horoscope. In ancient times in China, it was believed that people would have the characteristics of the element and the animal that ruled the year of their birth. The dog sign is associated with benevolence and good fortune. An old Chinese proverb says that if “a strange dog follows you home, your home will be blessed with prosperity”! People born under the Year of the Dog (1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, and 2006) possess the best traits of human nature. They have a deep sense of loyalty, are honest, and inspire other people’s confidence. Those born under this sign have “dogged” determination and make excellent jurists, investigators and personnel directors and entertainers. They are industrious and perceptive and lead in business and in academics.”

Excerpted from GCAA Press Release 12/10/2005

If you have ideas or recommendations for CNY celebration, please contact the following individuals. **We are also in need of volunteers to help with the following in planning for the CNY event. Please help! Thanks!**

Area in need of assistance

Decorations / Set Up
Audiovisual and P/A handling
Registration
Fee collection
Name Tags Distribution
New Membership Sign Up
General assistance during event
Post event breakdown & clean up

Please sign up with:

Jinbo or Tracey
Jinbo or Tracey
Henry or MingTang
Nancy or Henry
Henry or MingTang
Kevin or Henry
Jinbo or Tracey
Jinbo or Tracey

Jinbo Yin	best_ck9103@yahoo.com	(941) 966-4355
Tracey La	Parisces26@comcast.net	(941) 780-3011
Kevin Hu	cunkuohu@yahoo.com	(941) 923-3712
Henry Zhu	hexiangzhu@hotmail.com	(941) 758-2051
MingTang Liu	mintliu@hotmail.com	(941) 926-1760
Nancy Cao	nanfei@yahoo.com	(941) 739-8297

Upcoming Event:

The Programs Committee will be putting together a rummage sale in early Spring to help raise funds for future events such as 2006 Dragon Boat race and Mid Autumn Festival. We will be sending out notices to let everyone know exact time and location. Meanwhile, please keep in mind that if you would like to donate items that you no longer find useful such as clothing, knick-knacks, small furniture, kitchen items, we will pick them up from you. If you have any questions, please call **Tracey 941-780-3011** parisces26@comcast.net

Notice of GCAA Good Sundays

Our monthly social is held at 5:30P on the first Sunday of each month.
HOWEVER, for January 2006, it will be held on January 8 instead, in accordance with a reminder email sent out last week.

The monthly socials are typically not official meetings, just an opportunity to meet other families who share or are interested in Chinese friendship, culture and heritage. If you plan to attend, please RSVP the number in your party to Helen Pollak at hwpollak@comcast.net by Friday so the restaurant can plan space and waiters accordingly. The Programs Committee and other volunteers often meet earlier, at 4:30PM, to discuss planning matters. Please join them and lend a hand. Thank you.

For even numbered months, Feb/Apr/June/Aug/Oct/Dec 2006, 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).

For odd numbered months, Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov 2006, it will be at:
Grand China Buffet (Tel: 341-9868)

3969 Cattlemen Rd., Sarasota, FL 34233

From I-75, take Exit 207 for Bee Ridge and head west. Go very short distance, 500 feet or so. Turn left at the next intersection (Cattlemen) and move into the left lane and turn left again at your first or second opportunity. Restaurant is near the southeast corner of Bee Ridge and Cattlemen, between Burlington Coat Factory and Home Depot.

To help you remember which monthly social is held at which restaurant, try the association "G before O, Jan before Feb." For actual maps and driving directions, go to <http://maps.google.com/> and enter the restaurant address.
See you there.

Kudos to and news about our members and families

Mike and Kim Hung's daughter, Jocelyn Hung, had her artwork selected as one of top 10 and displayed at Venice Art Fest Nov 5-6, 2005.

Dr. and Mrs. Hammond and Catherine Chen's grandson, Austin Cheng, has been accepted to the University Of Illinois School Of Medicine in Chicago. Congratulations!

Sara and Chun Wang celebrated a new addition to their family.
Paul Han Wang was born Wed Dec 7, 2005 at 8:42 pm, weighing 6 lbs 2 oz. Sara serves on our Communications Committee and in spite of the duties of her new bundle of joy, continues to avail herself to serve GCAA. Our 2006 Directory will be printed with Sara's assistance. Thank you, Sara. Congratulations and best wishes to your whole family.

Thanks to Tony Shih and Xueji' Zhang, the 1st GCAA Ping Pong Tournament was a great success. Held on Dec 4, 2005 at the Ping Pong Room of WPI, the winners were:
Men's-single Champion - Dr. RuanJin Zhao
Women's-single Champion - Miss Nancy Cao.
For info on future events, please contact Tony at 929-0564

Ellen Gaulke of the FCC group is currently hosting a toddler/pre-Kindergarten playgroup at Colonial Oaks Park for FCC and GCAA families. Meet time is the second Saturday of each month, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Moms and dads are both welcome. For more information please contact Ellen Gaulke, thegaulkes@yahoo.com, or 941-400-6463.

Edward and Suzanna Lin's son, Bryan Lin, is a National Merit Scholar and 2005 recipient of the Dick Scobee Scholarship for Gifted Student. As a LEAD Scholar at UCF's Burnett Honors College, Bryan is keeping a very busy academic as well as extracurricular schedule including extra parts in Pirates of the Caribbean, Parts II & III. For Spring break 2006, Bryan elected to participate in Alternative Spring Break 2006 and will be going to Metairie, Louisiana (about 15 min from New Orleans) to volunteer with hurricane relief and restoration.

Helpful tips

HOW TO GET THOSE STAINS OUT.

The following tips on stain removal comes from iHemmet. Test in an inconspicuous spot first
Blood: Cold water and salt. **Berries:** Citric acid dissolved in luke warm water. Rinse thoroughly.
Ball point pen: Moist stain with red spirit. Then ammonia and soap water. Rinse thoroughly.
Lipstick: Moist stain with red spirit. Rinse in luke warm water. **Candle wax:** Cool the wax, then try to pick off as much as possible by hand. Warm the rest off with an iron and blotting paper.
Wine: Ammonia and soap water. Rinse in luke warm water.

Interesting website

Here is a web site for people who want to learn some Chinese words and poems. They did a good job not only showing the poem, but also explain each Chinese character's meaning and its structure.

<http://afpc.asso.fr/wengu/wg/wengu.php?l=Tangshi&no=-1>

Reminders

PLEASE KEEP YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES CURRENT WITH US SO WE CAN keep open our channel of communications. A portion of my time is made unproductive by having to resend out emails and newsletters that people did not receive due to change of address. Please also provide us the email addresses of your teenagers so they can stay informed of the GCAA activities as well. If you have or anticipate a change in your email address, please notify me and Dr. Kevin Hu promptly

Wanted

Sageberry Tile is looking for someone (such as a student) who is good with Photoshop or CorelDraw. The owner, Priscilla Berry, will train for more complicated work, but the person needs to know the basics of how to resize an image, remove backgrounds, change colors of objects, remove red-eye, and similar types of photo software image manipulation. The pay rate would be in the \$8-\$10 per hour range. Hours are flexible. She is also looking for an eBay agent and outside sales people. If interested, please call Priscilla Berry at 918-2411(Osprey Store) or 359-9211 (University Park).

How to unsubscribe to this Newsletter:

Please send email to elin@ingenious.com with the following message in subject box:

"Unsubscribe to GCAA Newsletter" and your email address will be promptly removed from the list of all GCAA newsletters and other electronic notifications.