

Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCAA) Newsletter

Issue Jul-Aug 2008 - Released on July 05, 2008

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

**IMPORTANT:

Join us the next two Saturdays (July 5 & 12) for the final two parts of special documentaries on the Chinese American experience. See details below.

Meet Chinese Acrobats this Sunday July 6 at Oriental Buffet, **** NOT**** Grand China Buffet** The location is changed in order to accommodate a larger gathering.

Welcome the Acrobatic Troupe from China

GCAA is holding a Welcome Dinner for the Acrobatic Troupe from China as our July's monthly Social. In addition to a flower bouquet at the circus performance, two lovely large welcome baskets have been personally prepared by Irene Leung, new GCAA Secretary, and will be presented at the restaurant to the acrobats. We will be able to enjoy the company of the acrobats on a personal and leisurely basis. It would be most interesting to hear stories of how they got into this profession and their life on the road. Please come and join us!

Thanks to the volunteers who'll provide transportation for the 17 Chinese Acrobats. Because we are extending an invitation also to SACA members, there may be a large turnout. So, please do RSVP to Irene Leung (irene.morningstar@gmail.com) to help us plan accordingly. If for any reason you were unable to RSVP ahead of time, you are still always welcome to join us.

Date & Time: Sunday July 6, 2008 at 5:30pm

Location: 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).

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Highlights of this issue

-- GCAA's Earthquake Relief Fund donations exceeded wildest expectations! Read report of heartwarming efforts below by Dr. Ron Wang.

-- Featured on-the-ground earthquake reports from Larry Lieving in Sichuan. Read the reports under section 6.

-- Beijing Olympic Games open on August 08, 2008!

1. Message from the Chairman of GCAA

Dear members and friends of the GCAA family,

I am beaming with pride and gratitude for the incredible and spontaneous outpouring of compassion and volunteerism from our GCAA members, and the generosity of many donors, following the Sichuan earthquake on 5/12/08.

At that time, GCAA President, Dr. Xueji Zhang was in China, so in his absence, Vice President Dr. Rong Wang took on the challenge of spearheading the GCAA Earthquake Relief Fund Drive. As GCAA is a 501(c) 3 organization, all donations to GCAA are tax-deductible.

Even though Qinghong Wei, our wonderful GCAA secretary who took over for Helen Wu Pollak just earlier this year, was in the process of moving away in mid-May from Sarasota to join her husband Zhigang in West Palm Beach, she still pitched in full-heartedly to help right up till the day she had to leave. We will miss them both and wish them all the best.

During this hectic time of frenzied need for assistance of all sorts, we were fortunate to have Irene Leung, enthusiastically offering to assume the GCAA position. Irene is a new member of GCAA who is also a recent transplant from NYC. She has put her heart and soul into both the earthquake relief effort and in serving GCAA. We thank her for her indefatigable volunteer spirit.

Among the extraordinary volunteers and leaders in the earthquake relief effort are Drs. Ron Wang and

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest

Ben Franklin

Success is not final, failure is not fatal:

It is the courage to continue that counts.

Winston Churchill

If you can dream it, you can do it

Walt Disney

The quality of a person's life

is in direct proportion to his commitment to excellence, regardless of his chosen field of endeavor

Vince Lombardi

No one can make you feel inferior without your consent

Eleanor Roosevelt

Don't go for looks; they can deceive. Don't go for wealth; even that fades away. Go for someone who makes you smile because it takes only a smile to make a dark day seem bright. Find the one that makes your heart smile.

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human, enough hope to make you happy.

Always put yourself in others' shoes. If you feel that it hurts you, it probably hurts the other person, too

The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.

Happiness lies for those who cry, those who hurt, those who have searched, and those who have tried, for only they can appreciate the importance of people who have

Sean Kuang, Sophia Fong, Jenny Jie Lin, Irene Leung, Nancy Cao, May Thomas, Dr. Hua Liu and Linda Fung, Exceptional donors are acknowledged in Dr. Wang's report later in this Newsletter.

As some of you may know, our sister organization to the north, SACA (Suncoast Association of Chinese Americans) serves over 25,000 Chinese in the Tampa Bay area. In contrast GCAA has a base of less than one-fiftieth that size. As of mid-June, SACA raised an impressive \$50,000 for China earthquake. The GCAA leadership had ambitiously aimed to raise as much as \$10,000 in donations. However, the sum GCAA raised exceeded \$22,000 as of June 30!! This is an astounding achievement of which we can all be extremely proud!!

In addition to the much needed funds, all of which will soon be sent to the Consulate General of the PRC in NYC, the invaluable experience for GCAA as a whole is the sense of personal empowerment, growth and exhilaration in being able to make such a significant difference.

Until we are put to the test or pushed by circumstance to make an extraordinary effort, few of us realize the true capacity within each of us to make a positive difference in the world we live in, whether locally at a community level or across the world.

A detailed report of our Earthquake Relief efforts by Dr. Wang can be found below. Regrettably, space limitations preclude us from acknowledging with sincere thanks the many many compassionate and generous individuals who have assisted in this noble group effort. We thank you for your understanding and know that recognition was never your motivation in your selfless giving.

In addition to my congratulations and heartfelt gratitude to each and everyone of you who have stepped forward to give and serve, my wish is that the flame of faith in your own abilities, the self empowerment that you have experienced--all ignited or boosted by the earthquake tragedy--will grow forever in your hearts and nourish you with the happiness of fulfillment in your lives.

Thank you for your inspirational and exemplary giving, sharing and team spirit. I am honored to serve our community alongside you.

Sincerely,

Ed

Dr. Edward Lin

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touched their lives.

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 Drs. Xueji Zhang, or Sean Kuang 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 USCPFA, please send it to elin@ingenious.com or Mrs. Libin Huang libinh@linkingbt.com. 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

2. Program Committee Reports

GCAA Beach Picnic Report

By Xueheng(Sean) Kuang

GCAA organized a potluck picnic at the South Lido Beach Park, Sarasota on May 3, 2008 afternoon starting at 4pm.

More than 100 people attended. Most of them were GCAA members. GCAA provided on-site grilled hotdogs and burgers, snacks, and water. Some members brought dessert and fruits. All attendees had a great time. Fun activities included beach volleyball, swimming, beach walking, sunset watching and networking. The activity also provided all attendees a lovely opportunity to know more about each other and meet with friends. Many members said it was such an enjoyable activity, for both kids and adults.

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3. Schedule of GCAA activities:

Saturday Chinese documentary film series

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

We continued to have a good turnout last Saturday (June 28) for the very moving Part 2 of BECOMING AMERICAN: THE CHINESE EXPERIENCE. Part Three was shown this Saturday, July 5 to a larger crowd followed by a stimulating discussion.

Thanks to Chuck Richter for researching very interesting information about the sponsors of this PBS program, who are predominantly Chinese Americans from Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Shanghai, many being active in the C-100 (Committee of 100) group. Dr. Bloomer distributed a copy of Chuck's findings as a handout on Saturday, July 5.

--- Carolyn Bloomer, PhD

July 5 1:30pm

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.

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.

Recommended Services

Certified Inspection for Hurricane-Resistant Home 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

BECOMING AMERICAN: THE CHINESE EXPERIENCE

Part Three: No Turning Back

World War II ushered in major changes for Chinese Americans. In an abrupt about face, they were suddenly embraced by America's political establishment. The exclusion laws were quickly repealed and Chinese Americans began their rise to the pinnacle of U.S. life.

July 12 1:30pm

Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision

This Academy Award winning documentary combines interviews and archival footage to present a riveting and dramatic portrait of Maya Lin, the young Chinese American architecture student whose design for the Vietnam Memorial was selected from over 1000 different designs, yet challenged by mighty and often racist /sexist opposition from veterans and a hostile Congress, her resolute courage in a David vs. Goliath battle, and her journey into a successful career designing other memorials.

Further information about the programs can be found at <http://www.pbs.org/becomingamerican/aboutprograms.html>

Location: All films will be screened on the campus of Ringling College of Art and Design, in Goldstein 1, which has been relocated to the south side of Martin Luther King Boulevard south of the Selby Gallery, in area #22 on the campus map available on line at: <http://www.ringling.edu/fileadmin/pdf/CampusMap.pdf>. The map doesn't show any buildings in area #22, but actually 4 buildings are there in the Goldstein complex. Goldstein 1 is the southernmost of the four, and closest to the parking area.

Parking: Best parking is in the U-shaped parking lot that wraps around areas #22 & 23, extending from the east side of 41 to the west side of Old Bradenton. The lot can be entered from either street.

For more information feel free to contact Carolyn at cbloomer@ringling.edu, or phone 351-0995.

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Monthly Social

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. If you plan to attend, please RSVP the number in your party to Irene Leung at irenel@post.com by Friday so the restaurant can plan space and waiters accordingly. A discount is extended to all attendees. When a major program is approaching (such as Chinese New Year), the Programs Committee and other volunteers often 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.

For BOTH the months of July and August, 2008, the meetings will be held 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).

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 "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

For sale or wanted

CHINESE TRANSLATOR WANTED: a stamp collector interested in Chinese stamps that can translate from Chinese (articles written in magazines in the PRC) to English for a non Chinese reader. Short, 100-300 character articles on aspects of Chinese philately. Willing to pay for services. Have perhaps 2-3 articles per month. Contact Archie S. McKee, archie_mckee@hotmail.com or 813.641.7280.

GCAA basketball games

on Friday evenings

Location: Isles basketball court (outdoor, lighted)

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm on Fridays

Address: 5918 Benevento Dr., Sarasota, FL 34238

Directions: Head towards the south end of Honore. After passing Central Sarasota Pkwy, take the second street on the left (Aviano Ln) into Isles community and pass the bridge, make a left turn on Benevento, continue 100 feet, the basketball court is on your right side.

For more information: contact Jason Liu 941-320-3814.

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CHINESE FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES FOR SALE: 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 .

HOUSE FOR SALE 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:hexiangzhu@hotmail.com or 941-907-9178.

FOR SALE: Heavy duty towing hitch plus tongue, lock. Barely used. Cost over \$175, now only \$50.

Trailer dolly. Used twice. Asking \$75. Magic Chef 3.6CF refrigerator, black with stainless steel door. \$90

Call Sue 966-0690

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4. Kudos and spotlight on our members and families

Kudos

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, beginning with this issue, we will randomly feature profiles on several members. 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 to 300 words to elin@ingenious.com and Ms. Libin Huang libinh@linkingbt.com. Your capsules are subject to editing for length and clarity.

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Request for Help

Adoption Help Website

By Frank Balogh Jr

If we received \$1 from 24,000 people it would be done. Please help us! www.GloriousBlessing.com/Adoption

We are adopting this wonderful Brother and Sister. We had applied for one child and these guys came up, we don't want to separate them! However the cost has doubled and because of their age air fare is also needed one way back for both of them.

Also any extra funds will be given to "Cathwel

Spotlight on Our Members and Families

Dr. Wen Y Chung

Dr. Chung was born before world war II in a small village with no more than 1000 people in southern Taiwan. Most people lived in poverty including his parents. At that time Taiwan was a colony of Japan because China was defeated in the Sino-Japan War in 1895. During the last part of World War II, between Japan and the United States, or the last two years of his grammar school, he hid in a small ditch daily for safety during air attacks by the United States. Most people in Taiwan lived under constant threat of starvation during the war. Dr. Chung experienced the crude rule of Taiwanese by Japanese with physical abuse of the citizens in public and discrimination between Japanese and Taiwanese with schools allowed only to Japanese.

During Dr. Chung's last year of grammar school, China won World War II and Taiwan went back to China according to the international agreement. Everybody in Taiwan was so happy to welcome people from China to take over the colonial rule from Japan. Generalissimo Chang Kai-shek was defeated by Communists in mainland China and escaped to Taiwan to rule the island much worse than Japan by using the longest martial law in human history. His government killed and jailed hundreds of thousands of political opponents. Less than ten percent of mainlanders came with him to rule Taiwan for more than four decades. His government also educated people how to hate people in mainland China and fight back to overtake the mainland China.

After finishing Civil Engineering degree in Taiwan, Dr. Chung went to University of Florida in Gainesville for his master's degree and Columbia University for a doctoral degree in engineering. Upon graduation, Chung worked for a few companies, then started his own business in design and development of real estate with good success. With three adult children successful in their own businesses, the Chungs have become semi-retired and live in a nice bay- front house, enjoying regulated daily life of good dieting, exercise, after lunch siesta, gardening and routine business work. Dr. Chung provides scholarships to his alma maters in this country and Taiwan. He has received lots of help from people throughout his life. Though he was unable to always thank them individually, Dr. Chung likes to help those young people who need help. He also likes to advocate a good relationship between China and Taiwan -- "We need a big heart and lots of love to take an abandoned and abused child back. Both sides are working very hard, carefully and wisely to accomplish it. Let's work together for its success".

Drs. Ron Wang & Lucy Liu

Drs. Ron Wang and Lucy Liu had started their professional careers that took them from Beijing, Iowa, and California to Florida. They have called the Gulf Coast home for over 13 years.

After graduating with a M.S. E.E. in Beijing, Dr. Wang worked in the field of laser radar. Following his pioneering graduate studies at Iowa State University, where he was the first dual-major Ph.D. recipient in Neuroscience and Applied Math, Dr. Wang started his medical technology profession in Sarasota. He then helped two high tech California start-up companies in optical telecom and medical imaging, before starting his own. He is now a chief/principal consultant in both telecom and medical technologies.

Service" (www.CS.ORG.TW) Jonah House the Orphanage in Taiwan.

You can help by booking your next flight or travel plans thru www.ytbtravel.com/FloridaSun and by buying Your house hold goods at www.quixtar.com with IBO # 0905880 Referring IBO Frank Balogh

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

Matters relating to GCAA Programs:

Co-Director, Dr. Sean Kuang, xkuang1@lsu.edu, 941-538-8525

Co-Director, May Thomas,

Co1076@yahoo.com, 941-322-9220

Matters relating to membership and how to join

Co-Director of Membership, Jian Wang jian@doctorhan.com 941-924-2278

Co-Director of Membership, Linda Fung elfunkkee@verizon.net; 941 918-8505

Matters relating to monthly socials

Irene Leung, Secretary irenel@post.com, 646-251-7714

After earning her M.D. in Beijing, Dr. Liu had practiced in many medical specialties in Beijing hospitals. She was then a visiting scholar at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Institute in USF. Since then, she had practiced in Sarasota as a board certified Chinese acupuncture and herb physician at the University Acupuncture and Skin Care Center.

They are blessed with two handsome, bright sons, William and Matthew. As an active third grader in Pine View School, William loves to read Harry Potter and dragon/ dinosaur books. He has received honors at national, state/county or school level in reading, writing and science. Matthew is 19-month old, with abundant energy and endless curiosity.

The family enjoys outdoors, beaches, quiet game/movie nights, singing and dancing together. Dr. Wang is a passionate political thinker and occasional activist, following closely many local, national, international politics, and is hooked on playing golf weekly.

Natasha (9 ½), Irene Leung and Joseph Nieckoski

Transplanted from Manhattan two years+ ago, we are happily adjusting to the lovely, healthy pace of our dream home in Longboat Key, surrounded by the emerald sea.

Natasha has been the famed young female soccer and basketball star in Anna Maria Island. Natasha can be Googled at

http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&rls=com.microsoft%3A*%3AIE-SearchBox&rlz=117GGIH&q=Natasha+Nieckoski&btnG=Search

for her superb soccer skills representing the region. She was elected to be the Best Female Athlete by the soccer league. Her passions are school and sports. She has been an exceptional swimmer/ snorkeler/ surf boarder/ roller skater / skateboarder etc. However, books are her absolute favorite objects; she is currently at 6th grade reading level.

Her Mommy Irene Leung has been in global import apparel and accessories business for three decades. Irene is fluent in many Chinese dialects, received her E-MBA degree, and specialized in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution. She has been partner and co-founder of two major fashion companies based in Manhattan. With her computer skills, she is able to remotely control her businesses via E-tools and in exchange, finally has the precious time she had wanted so much to be with her daughter, to enjoy spending Natasha's formative years to provide nurturance and encouragement. Every summer, the Mother-Daughter team will have an overseas trip to submerge themselves in exotic foreign cultures. This summer, their destination will be England and France.

Irene is currently pursuing her Ph.D. degree in clinical hypnotherapy and has been teaching business courses at college level with great rigor.

Joseph has been the most doting father of all fathers. He and Natasha have a great bond ever since

Matters relating to sports programs

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

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

GCAA website

www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org

Barry Zhang, WebMaster: bzhang@comcast.net

Asst. WebMaster John Zhu juntaozhu15@yahoo.com

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

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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.

Featured Links

Chinese American Heroes:

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

Natasha was a wee baby. Joseph is semi-retired from his Fine Home Innovation Business. Although Irene and Joseph have been amicably divorced, daughter Natasha lives a harmonious life, spending equal quality time one week with Mom and one week with Dad.

Dr. Jing Zhang & Mr. Jing Ma, Esq

Zhang Jing moved to Sarasota in August 2007. She is an Assistant Professor of Chinese Language and Culture at New College, where she had a very rewarding first year initiating the new program of Chinese. She likes reading, writing, and films. When she has time, she also enjoys playing with spices and revising recipes. Over the last year, she has developed new hobbies of watching birds and listening to the wind whistling through the bamboo grooves while walking along the Bay Shore Road. Her husband, Ma Jing, is an attorney specialized in corporate law. Looking forward to joining his wife in Florida, Ma Jing is still working in St. Louis, where Zhang Jing got her Ph.D. in Chinese/Comparative Literature from Washington University. Jing met Jing many years ago at their high school in their hometown in Hunan Province.

Zhang Jing has been exploring the local resources of Chinese culture for her students and for herself. If you have good ideas to share, please write to jzhang@ncf.edu.

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5. Upcoming events & attractions

The Beijing Olympic Games open on August 08!

“One World, One Dream”

August 8-24, 2008

Official website: <http://en.beijing2008.cn/>

From Dr. Carolyn Bloomer and Regent China Tours in Beijing:

An inspiring melody: BEIJING WELCOMES YOU !

MV: <http://player.youku.com/player.php/sid/XMjYzNDYwMzY=/v.swf> and click "play".

Or <http://www.regenttour.com/info/view.asp?id=21>

An English translation:

Fresh air blows in, together with the first line of sunshine.

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

July 4th and Patriotism

By Dr. SB Woo

On July 4th, we celebrate the blessings of liberty which we enjoy as Americans. Let's all display a flag, shall we?

Patriotism is "love and devotion to country. The questions are how we love it and how we express our devotion."

There is a great article in Time magazine by Peter Beinart on patriotism (July 7 issue). I can't do it justice by summarizing it. Nevertheless, I'll try with the aim to entice you to read the article itself. He wrote and I paraphrase liberally:

American patriotism wears two faces. Conservatives prefer the patriotism of affirmation. Liberals choose the patriotism of dissent. Conservatives think that being born into a nation is like being born into family. You love it because it is yours. Liberals think patriotism is a struggle to narrow the gap between American ideals and America's reality. To conservatives, the devotion to America must come first, struggle to improve it is secondary. To liberals, America must earn our devotion by making good on its ideals.

Both brands of patriotism have defects. Celebrating America too unabashedly risks becoming self-righteous and turn patriotism into nationalism. However, loving America purely because of its ideals could lead to switching allegiance to other nations too easily.

America needs a mixture of both brands, because love of country requires both affirmation and criticism.

Many Asian Americans are personal embodiments of this ideal mix. We give America our primary allegiance*. At the same time, we are engaged in a great struggle prodding America to fulfill its core value -- equal opportunity for all Americans.

Tea flavor marks our friendship that ever lasts.
The door is open, and with a big hug we meet.
Beijing will be, the place you love most.
Here is your new home, wherever you come from.
You are welcome and we will never be apart.
There is a plant called eternity, and its flower is legend.
Seeds in this traditional soil will gain beautiful memories.

Feel at home, no matter how many times you have visited.
We have a lot things to talk about, to wish for each other.

Welcome to Beijing, a new world we will create.
Sports are what represent youthful spirit.
Welcome to Beijing, under the sun we breathe.
New records will be set on yellow ground.
The door is open, Let's welcome a new world.
A new history will begin since this special day.
We are all friends, in our hearts and with our souls.
Everything will be smiling because of your presence.
Welcome to Beijing, Let's listen to the music.
Go, go, ride over the successes we will be making.
Welcome to Beijing, Let's make every dream come true.
Miracle is a result of everyone's efforts.
Welcome to Beijing.

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[Asolo Theatre Featuring Chinese Acrobatic Troupe from June 25th thru July 24th](#)

Featuring performers from China, Majestic Ma Xi Tuan will showcase the skill and movement characteristic of traditional Chinese acrobatic artistry. Circus-lovers will enjoy a full-line up of acts including lion dancing, hoop diving, Chinese pole climbers and contortionists.

Place: Historic Asolo Theater

Contact: Tickets and Information: 941.360.7399

Description: Majestic Ma Xi Tuan

A stunning spectacle of death-defying acts and thrilling acrobatics! Direct from China to the stage of the Historic Asolo Theater.

June 24 – July 27, 2008

June 24: Opening Night – 7:00 p.m. All Tickets \$50

Weekly performance schedule starting Wed, June 25 and continuing through Sun, July 27 (NOTE: NO PERFORMANCES ON JULY 4)

Wed & Thur: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Fri & Sat: 2 p.m.; 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Sun: 1 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

No show on Monday or Tuesday

Please display a flag. July 4th is affirmation time.
Comments are welcome at :

<http://www.80-20educationalfoundation.org/politi>

[caledu/posterboard.asp](http://www.80-20educationalfoundation.org/politicaledu/posterboard.asp)

Warmest regards,

S. B. Woo

President, 80-20 Educational Foundation, Inc.

* What if a naturalized citizen still has strong feelings for his/her old country? That is quite OK, so long as he/she gives first allegiance to America. America is a great and wise nation. It knows that people who can forget their old country over one naturalization ceremony could easily forget America the next moment

Prices:

11 a.m. performances:

\$6 special for camp group sales
\$10 for children age twelve and under
\$12 for adults

1 p.m., 2 p.m. 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. performances:

\$10 for children age twelve and under
\$12 for adults

8 p.m. performances: All tickets \$13

[中国杂技团来Sarasota 演出](#)

演出单位：中国传统杂技团（江苏）

演出地点：Historic Asolo Theater, Ringling Museum of Art (intersection of US 41 and University Parkway, Sarasota)

联系电话：941.360.7399

演出时间：2008年6月25日至2008年7月24日

演出场次：星期三，星期四：上午11点，下午2点
星期五和星期六：下午2点，5点和8点
星期天：下午1点和4点

表演内容：顶碗，爬杆、魔术、狮子舞等数十个中国传统杂技节目，还有走软钢丝、车技等高难度的项目。表演持续一个小时，编排非常紧凑，全部是引人入胜的杂技表演，没有任何歌舞等节目。

票 价：傍晚场：13美元/人；其他场次成年人12美元/人，12岁以下孩子：10美元/人；团体票有优惠

敬请当地华人同胞前往观看，以示支持。

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6. Feature Articles and Reports

Special Reports: Sichuan Earthquake

GCAA China Earthquake Disaster Relief Message:

<http://www.gulfcoastchineseamerican.org/gcaa/china512relief.html>

After the Earth Trembled – a report of GCAA's China Earthquake Relief Fund Drive *by Dr. Ron Wang*

THE SHOCK: On the morning of May 12th, many of us woke up to the horrible news of the 7.9-magnitude earthquake that hit northwestern Sichuan and neighboring provinces, with initial deaths estimated at 8000. As the numbers of the dead, wounded and missing climbed by the hour, some of us frantically tried to reach our families and friends still in China with little success. As images and news of total ruins and buried school children aired on TV, we felt devastated, lost and helpless. "We must do something for those victims!" The rallying cry was met with great support among members of Gulfcoast Chinese American Association (GCAA), Sarasota Chinese Academy (SCA), The American Families with Children from China (AFCC), and US-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA), and Americans at large.

THE EXPERIMENT: The fundraising drive plan was drafted under the leadership of Dr. Ron Wang, Vice President of GCAA and Qing-Hong Wei, the past Secretary of GCAA, focusing initially on all public facilities, shopping centers, and groceries. However, preliminary inquiries at those sites by Jie Lin, Helen Wu Pollak, QingHong Wei, Linda Fung and Ron Wang came back with only limited success for permission at two locations: one Publix by Sarasota Square Mall and Sam's Club in Sarasota, with downtown locations, parks and libraries turning down our request for fundraising.

First batch of posters, fliers, and donation boxes were quickly made, with the help of Jie Lin, Yuhong Wan, Jason Guan, Barry Zhang and Ron Wang, and used by Sarasota Chinese Academy team led by Barry Zhang, Kevin Hu, Ye Lin and Yuhong Wan for our first donation drive at the SCA and quickly raised over \$1300 in a few hours. At the Palmer Ranch Publix, a team comprising QingHong Wei, Wang Ye, Jason Guan, and others raised over \$800 in about two hours. Unfortunately, this got cut short by "shoppers' complaints", according to the store manager. On their way home, Wang Ye and QingHong visited area Chinese restaurants and collected a generous donation of \$500 from Mrs. Chen's Chinese Restaurant.

The initial success and difficulty showed that to appeal to general public we would need to publicize who we are and our cause. In the mean time, our initial efforts should be more in the form of unattended donation posters at business locations and churches throughout Gulf coast, combined with events promoted in the media. Through efforts by Dr. Ed Lin, GCAA's Chairman of the Board, Sophia Fong, Helen Wu Pollak, Irene Leung and Ron Wang, the media throughout the Gulf coast responded positively with interests in helping, these including Sarasota Magazine, Sarasota Herald Tribute, and Anna Maria Island Sun News. We have further promoted our cause in the GCAA website with the help of Barry Zhang, Ed Lin and Ron Wang.

THE DRIVES: Following the announcement of the request for volunteers in setting up donation stands among members of GCAA, SCA, FCC and USCPFA, many members responded with great passion and participations.

- A. The donation efforts in Venice area was spearheaded by Sophia Fong. She had by herself modified the fliers and donation boxes with unique, smart features, which proved to be very efficient. She had identified and set up donations at several locations: Grace United Methodist

Church (Women of Grace), Englewood Tennis, China Jade, Venice Apothecary, Richard Bradway & Associates, Inc. Realtors and Venice-Ocala Heart Institute. These sites collected a total of about \$4500 in short time, with \$3650 of it from Dr. & Mrs. Jonathan & Sophia Fong's personal acquaintances, patients and the drop-off box in Venice-Ocala Heart Institute!!!

B. The fundraising in Bradenton was accomplished by Dr. Sean Kuang and Irene Leung working together. In addition, Irene along with daughter Natasha, focused their efforts in Anna Maria, Longboat Key and other areas, with donation sites set at area restaurants (such as Lily Star Restaurant and Mr. Bone restaurant) and Community Center at Anna Maria, St Bernard Church, The Blood Drive Foundation. The combined funds raised was \$1204.75, of which \$500.00 came from Irene's child care product company www.globalkecci.com.

C. The donation sites in Sarasota were initiated by May Thomas (China Palace and New Dynasty Chinese Restaurants for a total of \$1002), Linda Fung (Main Bookshop, flooded and canceled), and Hua Liu (University Acupuncture and Skin Care Center for a total over \$1750, of which \$550 was donated by Dr. Yong Liu and \$500 more from Ron).

D. The one-day donation drive at University of Miami at IMG led by Sean Kuang, Irene Leung and their families helped to raise about \$1300, which was sent directly to the aunt of a local student who lost her home and only son in the devastations.

E. Nancy Cao, CPA, our past-Treasurer did the fundraising in Riverview area alone and has achieved fantastic results of over \$1000 raised.

F. On May 31st, we had a fundraising cookout at the Sarasota Sam's Club, primarily planned and organized by Linda Fung and Ron Wang. We had collected over \$1700 through food sales and donations, with the great help by our volunteers and the news article on Sarasota Herald Tribute about GCAA and our cause. The volunteers included Sean Kuang, Junhong (June) Shi, Suhua Men, Kevin Hu, May Thomas, Linda Fung & Evert Brakke, Tan Wen, Henry Zhu, Irene Leung, Xueji Zhang (President of GCAA, who had just returned from China) and Ron Wang.

G. At SCA, the second fundraising was held by the SCA team on the last day of school, and additional ~\$1000 was collected.

In the meantime, because of the publicity through media and our widespread fundraising efforts, donations also have been pouring in to the GCAA home address, where Suzanna Lin had collected over \$3,900, as of June 15th.

THE TOAL APPRECIATIONS & THE NON-ENDING

As of June 30th, a total of about \$22,000 was raised, thanks to the amazing efforts of our volunteers and countless donors. The donations are being ledgered and IRS tax-deductible receipts and thank-you acknowledgments are being sent, by our Treasurer, Yuhong Wan and other volunteers. Every penny of the donations will go to the Consulate General of China.

Through the weeks of fundraising, we have been touched by the tremendous generosity and compassion displayed in the Gulf coast communities. We will not forget the student donors who stared at the tragic pictures on our posters, we will not forget the kind words and genuine concerns shown by donors at the cook-out fundraiser....We would like to especially acknowledge the exceptional generosity of the following donors: Dr. Wen Chung (\$2000), Mr. Jim Clark (\$1000), E.G. & Alfreda Boone (\$1000), Dowell and Perez, P.A. (\$1000), Dr. & Mrs. Jonathan & Sophia Fong (\$575), and each of the following who donated \$500: Dr. & Mrs. Richard & Laura Caradonna, Irene Leung & Global Kecci LLC, University Acupuncture and Skin Care, Dr. Ron Wong & Globaltown Microtechnology, Inc., John and Barbara Robinson, Mrs. Chen's Chinese Restaurant, Judith Sokal, Smelser Enterprises LLC and Dr. Ruan Jin Zhao.

Many others donors who donating lesser amounts all helped to push the total amount to a record level. I thank them as well as volunteers who put forth invaluable time and effort to make our overall effort an inspiring success. We are also thankful for the help from the media, especially Ms. Kim Cartlidge of Sarasota Magazine, Mr. Bill Hutchison of Sarasota Herald Tribune.

Our fundraising effort will be ongoing as there are a lot more to be done to help those 300,000 injured and 5 millions homeless. We still have donation boxes throughout the Gulf coast. Your continuous help is greatly appreciated!

Earth trembled, sky fell,

On the white dove tail,

Compassion heals, love resonates,

In the hearts of us all.

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[Email Diaries from Mr. Larry Lieving](#)

Editor's note: We thank Carole and Larry Lieving for sharing with us Larry's on-the-ground accounts of his harrowing experience during the Sichuan earthquakes. Larry retired from the Sarasota YMCA several years ago and is on a volunteer program to the YMCA in Chendu, China. We welcome them to the GCAA family and wish Larry a safe return trip home.

--- On 5/12/08, Larry Lieving [<llieving@yahoo.com>](mailto:llieving@yahoo.com) wrote:

Guess what!! As I was competing the names on that last e-mail the building shook and then started swaying. I quickly sent it off. This was the first time of being in my apartment when a quake hit. I had decided to just stay here and then it shook again. I was out of here. I went to the Y. It is raining pretty hard today. The old Y building had some roof tiles fall off and some came through the ceiling also. Chinese roof tiles on old buildings are not secured any so that is understandable. The rain was causing a problem also. I found out the elementary school was not damaged much at all. However, the orphanage has major problems. The bedrooms and the activities and reading rooms are badly damaged. The children are going home today to stay with relatives. Yesterday I had just left the Y on my bicycle and had gotten to the main street and people started running out of buildings and screaming. I did not know why. I stopped the bike and put my feet on the ground and wow-what a feeling I was dumbfounded for a few seconds. I looked up at the tall buildings all around me and saw windows vibrating and realized I was not in a good place. By then the streets were filling up with people and cars were honking but too many people so they were stalled I pushed my bike on down the street to a place where there were not any really tall buildings. There was a young woman-expatriate- I said 'are you ok? She said I think so- what should I do now. I said it was my first time for an earthquake but there are usually more aftershocks to follow but I did not think they were as bad. By then it was solid people all down the street toward the center of the city. I got through the people and the street was clear the rest of the way to home. I went to my apartment and the building had gas and electricity turned off and no one could go in. I went back to an intersection and just sat there on my bike and watched. I finally was let back in my building at about 10 o'clock. I had an open bottle of wine on my refrigerator that had tipped over and was on refrig and floor. Also a vase with fake flowers had fallen to the floor from my desk but it did not break. I did have a little trouble getting to sleep but slept pretty well. Thanks for all the prayers and concerns for me. Carole told me this morning when I called her. Larry

--- On 5/19/08, Larry Lieving <llieving@yahoo.com> wrote:

We had another bump in our road to recovery here. After the 3 minutes Monday things continued to settle down. Last night I had a class at a business here to work on English with some employees. After class I went and had a beer and relaxed a little. Things were very close to normal. I got to my apartment about 10. At 10:30 a friend called and said he heard an announcement on the TV that an aftershock was a possibility on the 19th or 20th. He thought that I should get out of my 21st floor home. The TV urged everyone to spend the night outside. I put together my pillow, a blanket, passport, money, and a few other essentials and went to the elevator. My decision was confirmed when I saw all the people waiting for the elevator. Most of the people in the building were leaving. I got on my bicycle and was out of here. At the closest intersection the traffic was building as well as the walkers. Before very long it was a mass traffic-people jam. Many horns honking again but for a different reason. I rode my bike around just looking at the people. Those who owned cars were spending the night in them. If the family was big or extended, people were sleeping on the sidewalk or the street beside the car. I found a grassy spot along the river. It was pretty steep but not many choices. I put my blanket down hoping that no dogs had been there lately. I went to sleep at around 3. I did not sleep well. I got up at 5 and it was cold and damp beside the river. It was very warm yesterday so I had shorts on. I wrapped the blanket around me and rode to the Y. It is among tall buildings so I decided to go to the edge of the big outdoor mall. There were many benches for shoppers to sit on. I finally found one that was unoccupied and claimed it. It was a small two seater so I half sat and half laid there and slept for another 90 minutes. It was warmer there. That was good. I was awake at 6:45 and rode around looking for hot coffee. I found a little bread shop just opening up and it was good. I then went back to the apartment and could get in so I put long pants and got my jacket and some of the food that I had just received from Kris and Annie. The beef jerky tasted extremely good. I went to the Y and was told we had a little shake around 1:55 but I had not even felt it. The thought I would have been safe in my home but was just pleased I was OK. I am just fine. It is 2 pm and I tried to sleep but I couldn't. I am not sure why but I will stay here tonight and enjoy the comfortable bad and the safe apartment. I do know that I am safe but hope I do not receive any more tests to prove it. I leave here exactly one month from today,

Love Larry

--- On 5/20/08, Larry Lieving <llieving@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hello. I am getting back to normal. Last night I slept from 10 till 6:30 this morning. I feel great. Yesterday I received a notice from Sue the travel agent that Asiana Air had canceled my June 20 flight because of the earthquake. I went to their office this morning and they were closed and there was a sign on the door in Chinese telling about it. I could see the dates 21-31 on the sign. I am assuming they will not be open until June 1. There were phone #'s though. I gave them to Isabella and she has tried to call them but no answer or busy or something. I will keep you posted. I do not have my regular classes this week but I do meet with her every day. Today we were talking about things and I started to mention the boat trip and we had just discussed the costs of replacing the roofs and it will be much more than I expected. I started to tear up and couldn't speak. After a few seconds I managed to tell her that I wanted her to not make the reservations because I wanted her to use that money on the roofs. I did not feel right taking the trip. She was tearing also and said they appreciate me coming back so much and Love me so much that she wanted me to go. I said emphatically NO She wanted me to thank you for being so supportive for letting me be here. I did say that I might be leaving a little earlier than the 20th depending on the airlines. I hope that I can leave around the 17th or so. If not until later I do have a 180 day visa so I will be fine. OK. Long enough. Send you another one tomorrow. Love Larry

--- On 5/22/08, Larry Lieving <llieving@yahoo.com> wrote:

Yes, it is good to tell you some good news. Things are slowly getting back to normal, Most of the stores are open now. The ambulances sirens are less frequent. Still many though. Isabella Hua, the director of the YMCA has been staying there at 24 hours a day. She is very busy. She said there were 3 aftershocks last night but I was asleep and did not wake me up. The Y is an old wooden building and a little shaker makes the doors and windows shake and makes noise. Between the Y and my apartment is a small government office with Arbitration over the door. I think the Red Cross is using it as a distribution point. There are many, many people around there with back packs and many are wearing green camouflage uniforms. Bill Hua, the Y board president told me that he talked to a few doctors there. They were waiting to go the quake area. There are many people there. Tents all over the sidewalk. I have to ride my bike in the street. Two of the 4 lanes are blocked to traffic for trucks and cars to drop off or pick up people. People with bull horns announcing something. There are many people from all over china wanting to volunteer. Some people from an NGO (non government organization) in Hong Kong came to the Y this morning and met with Isabella. She told me that she wanted to help but the Red cross would not let them go to the area. I think there are many volunteers available. Chinese people want to help. I am impressed with the government. I listen to the TV some and they are telling how many army, police and other rescuers they have. The Premiere was there very quick with media people. That is a change. Usually the TV tells things after it happens and things are rectified. I think the Olympics has made the government make some changes. This disaster has made the government be more "transparent" as they have been saying they want to be. I think they will have to be more open from now on. The TV though shows and tells all the good things that is happening. All the lives being saved. Videos show people being carried out on stretchers, people working with kids at hospitals, psychologists working with adults and kids in schools. That is all good but I see all the injured people, the devastation and the hurting people and it is hard for me to watch. So I do not watch much. Too sad. Thanks for letting me ramble. I guess that is therapy for me. Thanks for all your prayers. Love Larry

--- On 5/24/08, Larry Lieving <llieving@yahoo.com> wrote:

We had church for the first time since the quake. The walls of the building and ceiling had many big cracks but, they said it was safe. A college choir from CA was here and sang. They had been in one of the quake cities and sang there for people and Military. That was interesting. They talked in the service about this maybe opening the door to Christianity in China. That would be something good coming out of this tragedy if it happens. It was a pretty emotional service. I had to leave early because it was to emotional for me to handle. I have 3 more Sundays here. You take care. Love Larry

Bill,

The children are returning to the orphanage. Six came two days ago and the rest will return today. They feel that the kids are better off at the orphanage than at the relatives. The least damaged roof is over the Activities room so the roof has been temporarily repaired and beds moved into that room. They have room and staff lined up to care for 30 kids in that room. The school has not started yet so some time will be devoted to doing "homework". The government and the Education Bureau are aware that the orphanage is available for more kids. Estimates have been made for the replacement of the roofs. The first priority is the building which has children's and staffs bedrooms. It received the most damage. However, thank GOD, the quake happened when the children were not in bed. The children are all safe. The estimate for repairs have been made. I have converted the amounts to US dollars. The roofs were not very substantial with the old tile so a lot more rafters will have to be added for the better roofing. You can see this in the photos. The estimate includes roofing, replacement of the ceiling, doors and windows that were damaged, walls, and the flooring. It rained a lot right after the quake which caused the walls and floors to be so damaged. Total estimate for this building is about \$20,300. To permanently repair the Activities building, which includes the total replacement of the roof, plus ceiling and walls is \$8,200. The kitchen, dining room building will be done when funds are available. That estimate is \$3,200. These estimates do not include any electrical upgrading. This is a concern for the YMCA. the electrical system is very, very old and needs replaced ASAP. That is estimated to cost \$6,300. As you can see, the orphanage received more damage than it first appeared, BUT, the children and staff are safe and we are thankful for that. The photos are looking through the ceiling (parts of it still there) and on through the roof. The view of the building, because of the distance and angle does not show very much damage. Thank you for your help in this situation. Larry

--- On 5/26/08, Larry Lieving <llieving@yahoo.com> wrote:

Just as things were getting back to near normal, as normal as things can be as many are still sleeping in tents around here. I was at my computer in my apartment on the 21st floor, and the whole building started to shake. And it continued a very long time. I really got worried. I was shaking a lot after the building stopped. It was as bad or even worse than the shake on the Tuesday just after the initial shake. The YMCA president has assured me numerous times that my building is designed to stand an 8 magnitude earthquake. I believe him. HOWEVER, when the building was shaking very hard, I did not know what the magnitude was. It seemed like maybe 20 as it was happening. I was out of the building really fast. A few people were on the elevator also. A few were in the lobby also but not a lot of the residents. I hopped on my bicycle and got away from the tall buildings. Not nearly as many people reacted this time as had before for fairly big shakes. I got to a safe place and tried to call friends on my cell. All the lines were busy, I could not even get a dial tone. After a couple of hours I could get through and found out all were safe. I sat at an outdoor restaurant and had a Snow and calmed down. I went

back to the apartment and had a drink of wine and went to bed. By then I was ok. I had a fairly good night's sleep. However, I am considering how much more I will be able to do here. There are many visitors coming to the Y and the director, Isabella, is very busy escorting them around and no time for English classes. After this week we will assess my situation. I do appreciate all your prayers and thoughts and well wishes. I am doing OK. Love Larry

--- On Sat, 6/7/08, Larry Lieving <llieving@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hello All. It is confirmed that I will be returning home 2 weeks from today. Almost all of my reports have been negative about all of the happenings here. I want to say that I am impressed with the way the government and all of the Chinese people have pulled together to get through this terrible disaster. I love it here and these people more than ever. Chengdu is a great place. Very interesting with the contrasts of the Old and the New. The YMCA has scaffolding around it to repair the roof. The Orphanage is getting a new roof and refinishing the inside, as well as the Activities room and the Kitchen and dining room building. Many donations from the Chinese National office and all of the YM and YWCA's around the country. We have also received money from my Rotary Club in Sarasota and some friends in the US. The Hong Kong YMCA contributed a huge amount to the repairs. I really appreciate everyone who helped. I appreciate your prayers and thoughts also. I had considered staying longer to make up for the lost time, but too many people back there told me NO. So I am leaving the Earthquake area and going to CA (Earthquakes also) and Florida (hurricanes) and the Midwest (tornadoes)--HUM- It might be safer here. No, I will be back. One more incident in my stay happened last Thursday evening. I was going next door to have a little English session with some workers at an international Architectural company and started down on the elevator and suddenly the lights went out and the elevator dropped about 4 or 6 inches (it seemed farther though- like 10 feet) and bounced to a halt. I checked and I was OK. Then a little emergency light came on and I could barely see the PANIC BELL. I started pounding on it. Shortly I heard the security guy say something and remembered that none of them or any employee here spoke English. It did not matter. I yelled ENGLISH-ENGLISH anyhow. After a few minutes-not very long- the elevator started downward very very slowly. It stopped and the doors opened. You know the phrase==Shot out of a cannon== That was slow compared to me. I noticed I was on the 18th floor as I headed for the stairs. I remembered my friend Marilyn reminding me to use the stairs. I ran down the 18 flights very quickly. As I was going through the lobby people were standing around and talking loudly but did not seem to be panicked. I continued outside and quickly phoned a good friend to see if there had been another aftershock. She said no so I went on to the company. My legs were still shaking from the stairs and the whole event. I went in and talked to the girl who set up the class. She speaks fairly good English but by now I was really unnerved. She gave me some water and said the lights had gone off there also. I could see the generator for my building had started so I was sure that is what happened. No matter, I was glad that the class was canceled because I could not speak at that point. I rode to an establishment and got a cold drink and called my Y Boss and she called the building and found out the electricity would be back on at 10 that evening. I got home at 10 and everything was normal and has been ever since. That could have happened anywhere but it happened here to me. OK that is my story. Like I said, I Love China and I love you all. I will be sad to leave my FRIENDS here. Love Larry

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[Earthquake Coverage Provided By Dr. Carolyn Bloomer](#)

You may be interested in the Beijing Review's coverage of the Earthquake, which can be accessed online at :

<http://www.bjreview.com/> On the menu at the far left of the screen, under "Current Issue" click on "Previous Issues" that will take you to a screen where you can click on the May 22 and May 29 issues. The latter has an article about overseas Chinese fundraising efforts, particularly in the U.S. by Chinese community organizations, and another article about the international community's assistance.

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7. Helpful info and articles of interest

[PVC shower curtains harmful to your health](#)

By Mike Dias

Jun 16, 2008 - 12:03:53 PM

If you're you have plans to purchase PVC shower curtain anytime from now, you might want to think again. An environmental organization has discovered that this type of curtain may pose a risk to your health because it emits a large number of toxic compounds.

Last week, the Center for Health, Environment and Justice (CHEJ), a U.S non-profit organization based out of Falls Church, VA which is dedicated to protecting communities from exposure to dangerous environmental chemicals, in the air, water and soil, published a report indicating that polyvinyl chloride curtains release a variety of harmful chemicals when newly unpacked and used, at least for the first month.

The PVC shower curtains are not just sold in one or two small corner stores in your neighborhood. These products retail from many if not all national major outlets such as Wal-Mart, Target and Sears and could affect millions of people in the United States.

The title of the report: "Volatile Vinyl – The New Shower Curtain's Chemical Smell" may be deemed alarmist by some skeptical critics, but its content should be nothing to ignore. The 44-page report summarizes a two-part study carried out on plastic shower curtains purchased from Bed Bath and Beyond, Kmart, Sears, Target and Wal-Mart. The report provides some detailed insight into the nature of this type of curtains and lists the various chemicals and harmful elements contained which can be dangerous to our [health](#).

For further clarification, the PVC shower curtains were tested for two things, the concentrations of chemicals involved in the make-up of these curtains and the volatile organic compounds (VOC) present when unpacked. These volatile organic compounds are released into the atmosphere after these curtains are unpacked and hung up.

The study showed the curtains released over 108 VOCs over a 28-day period. Twenty-eight days later 4 VOCs were still able to be detected in the air. These organic compounds have been linked to diseases such as [cancer](#), and reproductive toxicity and they are also known to cause conditions such as kidney and liver damage as well as damage to the central nervous system and other important parts of the body.

The test meant to determine the chemical make-up of the PVC curtains found some worrisome chemicals including phthalates, which have been associated with reproductive problems such as shortened pregnancy duration in women and premature breast development in girls. These chemicals can also cause damage to sperm and other male reproductive functions.

The study also found that high heat and humidity promoted the release of these dangerous chemicals from the shower curtains.

Some skeptic scientists disagree with the report published and even the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has refused to ban PVC shower curtains despite the complaints of the CHEJ and the fact that 7 of the chemicals found in the study have been listed as hazardous air pollutants by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The level of VOCs present in the curtains is 16 times higher than the recommended guidelines for indoor air quality as stipulated by the U.S Green Building Council and Washington State Indoor Air Quality Program.

Certain retailers have commenced plans to phase out PVC shower curtains but their efforts haven't been an outright and immediate ban. IKEA however has engaged in major steps to drop such curtains in favor of alternatives which are viewed as much more environmentally friendly.

Despite all the pussyfooting and apparent delays by the bureaucracy to give a final verdict on the issue, consumers are launching into action with various efforts condemning the use of PVC shower curtains and demanding that they be banned.

PVC is one of the most used forms of plastic in the world so it is apparent why there seems to be some hesitation to launch a full-scale ban on such products by the government, the economic and financial factors also have to be considered as well.

For individuals who are more concerned about their safety than what the government intends to do now or in the future, the best thing for them to do would be to replace their PVC shower curtains with options which are much more environmentally friendly such as the ethylene vinyl acetate shower curtains which are stocked by a number of major retailers in the United States and all over the globe as well.

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8. The Funnies

An elderly patient needed a heart transplant and discussed his options with his doctor.

The doctor said, "We have three possible donors; tell me which one you want to use. One is a young, healthy athlete who died in an automobile accident. The second is a middle-aged businessman who never drank or smoked and who died in his private plane. The third is an attorney who just died after practicing law for 30 years."

"I'll take the lawyer's heart," said the patient.

After a successful transplant, the doctor asked the patient why he had chosen the donor he did.

"It was easy," the patient replied. "I wanted a heart that hadn't been used."

A lawyer with insomnia consulted her doctor. "Which side is it best to lie on?" she asked.

"The side that pays your fee," replied the doctor.

Editors' note: Our sincere apologies to any lawyer who is offended by the above lighthearted stereotypical jokes. We wish to state for the record that we recognize and appreciate that many lawyers do invaluable good for their client and for society. Were it not for lawyers and the threat of lawsuit and punishment, we as consumers would be without the many advances in safety and protection that we now enjoy, nor benefit from the social progress that comes from successfully obtaining redress from the courts. To all the good lawyers out there, we salute you.

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