

**Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCAA) Newsletter
July-Aug Issue 2007 (release date July 3, 2007)**

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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 Mr. Jian Wang jian@doctorhan.com and Ms. Linda Fung at elfunkkee@mailmt.com with copy to elin@ingenious.com. Thank you.
To unsubscribe, see instructions at end of newsletter.

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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.

- 1. URGENT NOTICES: =====
None at this time
- 2. MESSAGES from the Chairman =====

Dear members and friends,

As many of you know by now, I have turned over the Presidency of GCAA to Dr. Xueji Zhang in order to devote more time to my role as Director of 80-20 Initiative, an organization working for equality and justice for all Asian Americans. I will continue to serve you as Chairman of the Board, alongside other board members who are all committed to support Dr. Zhang and all the other officers and directors as they lead GCAA onward.

Winston Churchill said “You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.” In that spirit, I encourage all of you to become active volunteers in this organization and live the rewarding life of giving. There is no better way to teach your children than to lead by example.



This July 4, as we celebrate the cherished freedom that we enjoy and sometimes take for granted, remember to fly the American flag in front of your home to symbolize your rightful place as a citizen of this nation. Let’s rededicate ourselves to the spirit of liberty and justice and do our part to help make this nation a more perfect union. Together, we can and will succeed.

Best wishes,

Ed

Dr. Edward Lin
Past-President, GCAA
Chairman of the Board
Encourage Inspire Empower

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world” Mahatma Gandhi

The President’s Word by Dr. Xueji Zhang

Dear GCAA members and friends:

First, I would like to thank Dr Ed Lin for his outstanding service to the GCAA, and to the former and present officers for their support of the GCAA.

I am honored and humbled to take the position of GCAA president, As Dr. Lin, Dr. Shao and Dr. Chen have come before me, so others will follow.

The task of leading this marvelous association into a new era is an enormous responsibility, a challenge I eagerly, but solemnly, embrace.

In meeting the responsibility of the leadership entrusted to me, I pledge to draw on my career as a scientist, my experience as an administrator, my skills as an educator -- and my uncompromising commitment, as a GCAA man, to work towards the highest standards of excellence and integrity, the standards embraced by all members of the GCAA family. These high standards are best exemplified by our remarkable and beloved Drs. Lin, Dr. Chen, Dr. Shao, Dr. Hu, Dr. Fong, Dr. Bloomer, Dr. Zhu, Helen Pollak, Nancy Cao, Sophia Fong, Jinbo Yin, Kitty Wang, Tracy La, May Jang, May Thomas, Laurie St. Denis, Barry Zhang and many other invaluable and dedicated volunteers in GCAA.

GCAA is a non-profit and non-religious independent organization registered in the State of Florida. Our mission is to facilitate the exchange of culture, tradition and education and history between our Chinese and American members and friends. It is also our goal to promote friendship and understanding between Chinese and Americans. The association is primarily comprised of professionals with Chinese heritage working and living in the Greater Sarasota area, but it is also inclusive of people of diverse ethnicity.

Many GCAA members are professionals with advanced degrees, including executives, professors, researchers, doctors and engineers. Most GCAA members have a strong Chinese cultural background; more importantly, they are warm friendly people interested in community and world peace. In the last two years, under the leadership of Dr. Lin, GCAA has grown to over 300 members and has become the Chinese civic organization in the Charlotte-Sarasota-Bradenton tri-county area.

GCAA serves its members by providing professional seminars, hosting social and culturally entertaining events, organizing annual public events such as "Chinese New Year Celebration" and the "Middle Autumn Festival". GCAA has also been actively reaching out and promoting community unity by working together with other Chinese community organizations and co-organizing events that bring special value to the community. GCAA has active interactions with regional community organizations such as FCC, SSSA, USF, SACA, SCA etc. GCAA also cooperates with various governmental, industrial, and academic organizations.

Together we face many challenges, a disturbing rate of crime, global warming, terrorist attacks, and poverty more persistent than we could have imagined a few decades ago. A rising intolerance threatens to polarize us as a society. The Chinese community is a small community in this area, however, we live in a world where technology and global communications are shattering traditional, geographic barriers -- blurring divisions among cultures, religions, and races -- and rendering the term "minority" less and less meaningful. "We must cultivate character built on a moral and spiritual awareness of others -- a capacity for love and respect for all people of all backgrounds. We make our living by what we get; but we make our life by what we give." We want our life to be good. We would like to make our next generation life better.

How do we accomplish this? One of the first things we can do is to appreciate and harness the diversity within our own communities.

I am as supremely confident that GCAA can meet this challenge as I am keenly aware that leading this remarkable association in this time of unparalleled opportunity is an enormous challenge for me. Yet, it is a challenge I cannot meet alone.

Therefore, let us join together as GCAA officers, members of the GCAA family, as friends and supporters of the GCAA, as representatives of the GCAA community -- with the zeal that has sustained this association in the past -- to embrace the challenge of propelling GCAA into the future.

This is our challenge. This is our goal. This is our commitment.

Xueji

Dr. Xueji Zhang
President, GCAA

Thoughts for July 4

Those who desire to give up freedom in order to gain security will not have, nor do they deserve, either one.
Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

As mankind becomes more liberal, they will be more apt to allow that all those that conduct themselves as worthy members of the community are equally entitled to the protection of civil government. I hope ever to see the foremost nations and liberality.
George Washington (1732-1799) Commander in Chief, 1st US President

You can only protect your liberties in this world by protecting the other man's freedom.
You can only be free if I am free.
Clarence S. Darrow (1857-1938)

The real guarantee of freedom is an equilibrium of social forces in conflict, not the triumph of any one force.
Max Eastman (1883-1969)

There is no freedom on earth or in any star for those who deny freedom to others.
Elbert Hubbard (1856-1915)

We will never have freedom until all peoples are free.
Robert Blinck-Edwards

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

3. Who to contact about what =====

Matters relating to GCAA Programs:
Co-Director, Dr. Sean Kuang, xkuang1@lsu.edu, 941-538-8525
Co-Director, Valentina Pippin, mvpc@comcast.net, (941) 961-3044
Co-Director, Cheyenne Wu cheyennewu1@yahoo.com, (941) 400-8540

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
Helen Pollak, Secretary hwpollak@comcast.net, (941) 929-9266

Matters relating to sports programs

Jason Guan guanguoming@yahoo.com, 941-379-4180
Jason Liu Liu5051@hotmail.com, (941) 923-2959

GCAA website

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

4. Programs Committee Report =====

We are planning a fun-filled potluck Mid-autumn Festival at Twin Lakes Park (just East of I-75's Exit 205) . Mark your calendar for Saturday afternoon 9/22/07 4 to 8PM
Rain date: Sunday 9/23 (next day) at South Lido Park. Go to St. Armand's Circle, exit Ringling, turn left to head south on Benjamin Franklin Drive and go to end of road.

Report on GCAA website:

Thanks to Barry Zhang, our website has been up and running: www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org
Please send suggestions for new features and improvement to Barry at bzhang@comcast.net

GCAA acknowledges with sincere thanks the generous support and sponsorship of the Marco Polo Restaurant in our 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.

5. Upcoming events and attractions =====

GCAA Speaker Series: Will be resumed in September.
Chinese Movie Series: Temporarily suspended. Our Dr. Bloomer is teaching and traveling in China

6. Volunteers needed=====

to help with various programs of GCAA, and to take over the Editorship of the GCAA newsletter. 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 minimal sections (such as GCAA Good Sundays) that are important for helping maintain channels of contact and social activity. In the future when our website is up, we also will need help with translations there. Please volunteer to help. Thanks!

7. Notice of GCAA Good Sundays=====

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 Helen Pollak at hwpollak@comcast.net 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 odd numbered months, Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov 2007, 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.

For even numbered months, Feb/Apr/June/Aug/Oct/Dec 2007, 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).

8. Kudos to our members and families =====

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.

9. Feature Articles by Edward Lin

Ever lament the limited resources we have and wished that we could have more? Here is an incredible must-watch video about an armless woman in China who puts it all in perspective for us.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GNzBFnUAdo>

For those of you who don't understand Chinese (the couple spoke with heavy Shan Dong [NE China] accent), the following commentary may be helpful: The woman, Ren Ji-Mei said her family were very poor. Her grandmother told her that when she was born without arms, her mother was inclined to toss her into the ocean. But her father said no, to just to raise her as a little dog. As to what could she do being armless, she said, " I have a pair of feet. I could do anything." When asked if she was a burden to her husband, Lee, she said "Let him speak for himself." Lee said his family was so poor that they could not afford a regular wife for him, so his aunt made a proposal to Ji-Mei's family. Her father said it didn't matter to be poor and Lee had a good temper and would not mistreat his daughter, so he agreed. Lee was full of praises and obvious pride for his wife, as did their three children for their mother. Watch this lady do the most incredible things with just her two legs, from crabbing to crack opening eggs to do stir fry—to embroidery and making dumplings. How does she do it all?? Obviously, she's got a leg up over us in sheer willpower and can-do attitude. ;o)

9b. 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. Letters to the Editor are also welcome. Thank you.

10. Helpful Info and articles of Interest by Edward Lin =====

Parents and students: If your student is about to start his/her junior year in high school, please READ THIS: It is not uncommon for many academically advanced students to pooh-pooh the PSAT; after all, if they are already straight-A students, why not just proceed directly to the SATs and forget about the PSAT?? Isn't that like riding with training wheels? **WRONG!!!** The PSAT in November of the junior year is **THE ONLY** test (NOT the SAT) that counts in the selection of National Merit Scholars among high school seniors. While the National Merit Scholarship is a mere \$2000/year, this highly acclaimed recognition, awarded only to the top 1% of 4 million American high school students, is typically the ticket to a full matching scholarship (paying for tuition, room and board plus other perks totaling as much as \$60,000/yr for out-of-state students) offered by many universities and colleges across the nation. So do not let this opportunity slip by. If you miss the PSAT in November of your junior year, it does not matter how great your overall qualifications are, you are automatically disqualified from competition for National Merit Scholar! Ouch!

Kids going off to college? Here is a handy checklist for what to pack:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/plan/college-success/9763.html>

Saving Earth From the Ground Up

Biologist Edward O. Wilson Warns of a Bleak World Without Bugs

By [Adrian Higgins](#)

Washington Post Staff Writer

Saturday, June 30, 2007; Page C01

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/29/AR2007062902334.html?referrer=email>



You may have heard of the nematode, that microscopic gelatinous worm in your garden soil, but did you know that four out of every five living creatures on Earth is a nematode? The whole bloody planet is crawling.

A gram of soil might also contain 5,000 species of bacteria and untold fungi in a secret universe separated only by the soles of our shoes and our sad ignorance of our global home. These and other marvelous revelations come from the celebrated [Harvard](#) biologist Edward O. Wilson, who was in town this week as lawmakers, government officials and scientists took a little time away from pressing matters of state to consider . . . the plight and the future of *bugs*. Laughable? No, don't diss bugs -- your very life depends on them, it turns out.

Wilson, winner of two Pulitzers for his books on invertebrate life, lectured to more than 200 like-minded bug lovers as part of National Pollinator Week events and celebrations.

At 78, he remains a lithe figure, crowned with a mop of steel-gray hair and disco-age translucent brown glasses, as if hewn from amber but missing the frozen prehistoric mosquito. At Wednesday's talk at the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#), Wilson was focused on putting self-absorbed *Homo sapiens* in some ecological context. If humans were to disappear -- he doesn't advocate this, for the record -- the effects on the insect world would be minimal. "It's unlikely a single insect species would go extinct except three forms of body and head lice," he said. Close relatives of the parasites could still live on gorillas. The primal, complex web of life would continue "minus all the species we have pushed into extinction." Ouch.

But reverse the tables, remove the insects, and what would happen? Wilson paints a Mad Max scenario, in which not only do the bees, flies, beetles, moths and butterflies disappear, but all the plants that rely on them to set fruit, nuts and seed vanish as well. No worries, you say, because two-thirds of the crops we eat are wind-pollinated. But insects, not earthworms, are the principal tillers of the soil, and without them this secret microbial universe in the soil would decline, too. Dwindling food sources and plunging human populations would bring out the beast in people, who would do what humans always do -- kill each other. Wilson speaks of "an ecological dark age" where "the survivors would offer prayers for the return of weeds and bugs."

This might be an amusing parlor game except for some alarming developments of late in our insect world. A [National Academy of Sciences](#) report released in October voiced fears that bees and other pollinators were in decline and that there has been insufficient scientific study to be able to measure their fortunes. Then came colony collapse disorder, or CCD, in one-quarter of the managed honeybee hives in the United States. Mostly affecting trucked hives used to pollinate crops such as apples and almonds, the phenomenon resulted in worker bees leaving hives and not returning. Wilson deferred to others on the topic. Kevin Hackett, of the federal [Agricultural Research Service](#), said scientists are studying if the phenomenon is a product of "a perfect storm" of maladies, pests and environmental stresses, and are focusing research on the secondary effects of a parasitic mite called varroa as well as a disease called nosema. "We know varroa can transmit viruses," he said.

"It's a bad thing when any species is at risk," Wilson said of CCD. "But in a sense it's the Katrina of entomology." It has brought a public awareness to the plight of pollinators, which Wilson calls "the heart of the biosphere."

Laurie Davies Adams, director of the Coevolution Institute in [San Francisco](#), told the audience that the plight of the pollinators has drawn bipartisan support in Congress with the introduction of proposals this week that would increase funding for pollinator research and for encouraging farmers, ranchers and others to establish and conserve pollinator habitat. Wilson sees a "tipping point in this country in terms of environmental awareness and concern. This is encouraging."

Exactly 250 years after the Swedish scientist Carolus Linnaeus gave science the means to catalogue the living Earth, with his system of scientific sorting and naming, "we may have discovered at a crude guess 10 percent of the life forms on Earth," said Wilson. "We are flying blind in many aspects of preserving the environment, and that's why we are so surprised when a species like the honeybee starts to crash, or an insect we don't want, the Asian tiger mosquito or the fire ant, appears in our midst." In other words: Start thinking about the bugs.

I have a top notch travel agent I'd like to recommend:

Toni Liang of
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ATLANTA GA 30340
TELEPHONE: 678 530 0840 or 800-888-0208
FAX : 678 530 0768
Email: toni.liang@att.net

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Knowing These 5 Auto Theft Myths Can Prevent You from Becoming a Victim

The National Crime Information Center, a unit of the FBI, reported that in 2005, a vehicle was stolen every 25.5 seconds in the United States. The agency said that a total of 1,235,226 vehicles were taken, which amounts to over \$7.6 billion in vehicle losses alone.



The expense involved in car theft is an important reason why consumers must be prepared in advance to handle their vehicle being stolen. However, consumer attitudes about preventing auto theft are based on a number of misconceptions, which can result in serious consequences for the victim. Many consumers believe that it is almost impossible to avoid being victimized, even with the installation of anti-theft devices or parking in a secure area. They feel that car thieves can't be stopped by these methods of protection.

This defeatist attitude led to the development of the "Wiser Drivers Wise Up" (<http://www.wiserdrivers.com>) program, which is designed to educate drivers about how to handle a vehicle theft. The project is a joint collaboration of the Insurance Information Institute, the Council of Better Business Bureaus and the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

The program teaches drivers about the five myths of auto theft that can make them vulnerable to the high cost of car theft:

Most Thefts Occur in Unprotected Areas - Parking in an unprotected area doesn't mean your vehicle is more likely to be stolen. An FBI report on "Crime in the United States" revealed that over one-third of all vehicle thefts occur at a home, compared to only two of every 10 vehicle thefts occurring at a parking lot.

Vehicles that are stolen from highways, roads or alleys, including carjacking, account for the smallest number of thefts.

Stolen Vehicles Are Usually Found - Although about one-half of all stolen vehicles are recovered, the first few days are critical. The longer the vehicle remains in the possession of criminals, the less chance of recovery. Fridays and Saturdays are the days with the highest frequency of motor vehicle theft and Mondays and Tuesdays have the highest recovery rates.

Insurance Always Provides a Rental Car - Many insured drivers believe that once they report a stolen car, their auto insurance will automatically cover a rental car until their vehicle is found. Although theft coverage is included via the comprehensive part of an auto insurance policy, this coverage may not automatically include a replacement rental car for a stolen vehicle.

Anti-Theft Devices Are Easy to Install - Pay a competent professional to wire, install and test your anti-theft system because today's vehicles are too complex for an untrained person to cut into a vehicle's electronics. Don't select the installer on price alone, check with the Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.org) to see if the business is reputable. You should also ask if the Mobile Electronics Certification Program (MECP) has certified the alarm system technician. If not, you may want to look elsewhere. The installer should provide a written warranty and show you how the anti-theft system works so that you are comfortable with its operation.

Thieves Are Not Interested in Older Vehicles - In 2005, the top five model years stolen were 1991, 1995, 1989, 1994 and 1997, respectively, according to The National Insurance Crime Bureau. And finally, don't wait until after your vehicle is stolen to find out what coverage you have. Drivers should review their auto insurance policy each year, including coverage that is mandatory, coverage you'll most likely need, and additional types of coverage, such as roadside assistance and rental reimbursement.

REMINDER. PLEASE KEEP YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES CURRENT WITH US SO WE CAN keep current in our channels of communications. Outdated email addresses create returned mail and other problems. 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 (Ed Lin; elin@ingenious.com), Mr. Jian Wang jian@doctorhan.com and Ms. Linda Fung at elfunkkee@mailmt.com. Thank you.

11. For Sale/Wanted =====

FOR RENT OR SALE:

Brand new cul de sac home in beautifully landscaped and gated Venetian Golf and River Club off Laurel and near I-75. 3-BR 2-bath w/2-car garage. 1,508 SF under air with screened-in lanai. Water and golf course view from master bedroom, living room and lanai. Fabulous amenities include club house restaurant, community swimming pool, tennis court, fitness center and walking trail through nature preserve. Non smoking. \$1,450/per month with annual lease. Shorter terms available. \$2,900 security deposit. References.

e-mail: best_ck9103@yahoo.com or call 941-966-4355

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