

Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCAA) Newsletter

Issue Mar-Apr 2008 - Released on March 05, 2008

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

Highlights of this issue

- 08 Chinese New Year Celebration Event report and pictures.
- Various exciting upcoming GCAA activities and events.
- A special report from Laurie St. Denis – A Breath of Life.

1. Thoughts worthy of reflection

TODAY IS THE VERY FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF MY LIFE

This is the beginning of a new day. I have been given this day to use as I WILL. I can waste it...or use it for good, but what I do today is important, because I am exchanging a day of my life for it! When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something that I have traded for it. I want it to be gain, and not loss; good and not evil; success, and not failure; in order that I shall not regret the price that I have paid for it. I will try just for today, for you never fail until you stop trying.

Most of the things worth doing in the world had been declared impossible before they were done.
Louis Dembitz Brandeis, American Supreme Court Justice, 1856-1941

One person with a belief is equal to a force of ninety-nine who have only interests.
John Stuart Mill, English philosopher and economist, 1806-1873

I know the price of success: dedication, hard work, and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen.
Frank Lloyd Wright

Fall seven times, stand up eight.
Japanese Proverb

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

2. Program Committee Reports

GCAA Chinese New Year Celebration Party

By Qinghong Wei

More than 200 GCAA members and friends came together to celebrate the Year of the Golden Rat at the Venice Community Center on February 10, 2008. The Honorable Louis Schwartz, US Department of State Officer, the Honorable Lou Ann Palmer, Mayor of Sarasota, the Honorable Edward Martin, Mayor of Venice, the Honorable Jon Thaxton, County Commissioner, and a lot of other VIPs attended the event and showed their support to our Chinese-American Community.

The celebration started with children's chorus, followed by performances that crossed cultures, including quartet performance, Latin dance, Chinese Kong Fu, Chinese Folk Dance and a lot other exciting programs. A news story of the celebration is available on the Herald Tribune website: <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20080213/COMMUNITY/802130347/1535/news0105>.

Dr. Xueji Zhang, GCAA President, presented Volunteer Award at the celebration. We are thankful to our sponsors and wish to recognize the following outstanding individuals:

Most Sustaining Sponsor

Table of contents

1. Thoughts worthy of reflection
2. Program Committee reports
[08 CNY Celebration report](#)
[GCAA Ping-Pong Tournament report](#)
3. Schedule of GCAA activities
GCAA Tennis tournament, Movie Schedule, monthly social
4. Kudos and spotlight on our members and families
[Spotlights: Frank & Jenny Shao, Sophia & Jonathan Fong, The Van Tuyl Family](#)
5. Upcoming events & attractions
Xiamen Delegation Visit
International Business summit
Architecture and Culture China tour
6. Feature Articles and Reports
[Special: A Breath of Life](#)
[Poem: There's Something About the Mountains](#)
7. Helpful info and articles of interest
[Cold Drugs Put 7,000 Children A Year in ERs](#)
[Book review: Have It All: Achieving Your Life's Dreams and Goals](#)
8. The Funnies

Volunteers needed

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

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

[Solicitation for Articles and Reports](#)

Yang Lin

Sponsor of the Year
Dr. RJ Zhao and Jing Liu

We have many hardworking volunteers whose energies and effort are the lifeblood of GCAA. Our sincere thanks to them all. GCAA officers and board members have excluded themselves from recognition awards. The following individuals were recognized as our 2007 Outstanding Volunteers:

Most Enthusiastic Volunteer:
Jason Liu

Most Generous Volunteers:
Dr. Jonathan & Mrs. Sophia Fong

Most Efficient Volunteer:
May Thomas

Most Dedicated Volunteers:
Linda Fung & Evert Brakkee

Volunteer of the Year:
Dr. Sean Kuang

Dr. Sean Kuang, our Programs co-chair was also elected to serve on the Board of Directors, replacing May Jang, who is stepping down due to illness in the family. We warmly welcome Sean and sincerely thank May for her valuable service to our Association.

Please also visit the links below to view more pictures of the CNY 08 event:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/barry.w.zhang/ChineseNewYear2008/photo#s5166299378883110354>
and
<http://spotted.heraldtribune.com/pages/gallery.php?gallery=312804>

<http://spotted.sun-herald.com/pages/gallery.php?gallery=298945&offset=0>
<[Back to table of contents](#)>

GCAA Ping-Pong Tournament

By Jason (Guoming) Guan

The GCAA Ping-Pong tournament has been successfully held in WPI. After hundreds of games and nearly five hours of intense competition, the tournament champions of different games were crowned.

We would also like to congratulate the following persons for their achievements:

Double:
Champion, Xueji Zhang and Lin Jie,
Run-up, Guoming Guan and Yuhong Wan,
Third, David Dai and Fang Yan

Women Single:
Champion, Lin Jie
Run-up, Yuhong Wan
Third, Nancy Cao and Kitty Wang

Men Single:
Champion, Guoming Guan
Run-up, David Dai

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 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

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

Third, Xueji Zhang

Without the participation of last champion, R.J. Zhao, the Men's Single competition was extremely intense. In the final round of elimination, David Cai, Xueji Zhang and Guoming Guan were tied. We had to decide who to be eliminated by draw. Xueji Zhang got a bad draw and was eliminated.

Since Xueji Zhang and Lin Jie had already won the mixed double and Lin Jie had won women's single, Xueji's elimination prevented his family from sweeping all the championship titles and the competitors seemed happy about Xueji's elimination. Finally Guoming Guan defeated David Cai and won the men's champion.

The women's single started with Kitty Wang and Ya Jia. The Women Single's favorite candidates Yanrong Fu and Nancy Cao were eliminated by the new comers Lin Jie, Yuhong Wan and Kitty Wang. Lin Jie defeated Yuhong Wan and won the Women's champion. Kitty Wang and Nancy Cao were tied and both won the third place.

The most entertaining part of the Ping-Pong tournament was taken place in the mixed double. The games were close and fun to watch.

We would like to thank World Precision Instruments, Inc for providing the Ping-Pong facility and Xueji Zhang for helping with borrowing the facility. Above all, great thanks to all the players for participating and having fun together. It is regretful that some players, such as R. J. Zhao, Ye Lin, Valentina Pippin, Kaiwu and Peter Mondello...etc could not make it to the game due to their schedule conflicts.

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

3. Schedule of GCAA activities:

GCAA Tennis Tournament

March 15

Format

Men's Singles and Women's Singles.

Signup

1. Deadline: March 12, 2008.
2. Contact: Jason Guan (guanguoming@gmail.com) or Jason Liu (liu5051@hotmail.com)
3. The Tournament will start on March 15th, and will continue for a few weeks.

Scheduling

1. The draw will be created and emailed to each player.
2. Time and place will be arranged (presumably in the court in Guoliang's community) in each weekend to play the games. We intend to get players together so that they can know each other better. If the player can not make it to the court on the date scheduled, he/she should reschedule with his/her opponent at least 24 hours before the game. Otherwise, the player who is absent will be in default.
3. Players should contact their opponents as soon as the draw is created, and as soon as they know they will be advancing to the next round. If you don't know who your opponent is because they haven't played their match, contact them both.

Play

1. All matches are add-scoring, best of three sets.
2. Players make all calls. In final matches, players make their own calls, but the chair umpire can be asked to overrule.
3. If matches are interrupted for any reason, play is resumed from the point of interruption. No points or games are ever re-played.
4. Both players are to each bring a new can of balls to a match. The players take back the new can after the game. Please notice you may need to bring the clay court tennis balls for the clay court.
5. The winner is responsible for posting the results on the draw sheet immediately following the match.

also offers sewing camps 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

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 hitch in almost new condition. Used twice. Complete with tongue, locks, etc. Originally \$175. Asking only \$50. Two matching green-cushioned rocker recliner with glider foot stool. Like new. Originally \$110, now only \$50 each. Call Ed 966-0690

FOR RENT/SALE JUST RENOVATED and ready to move in. (\$130,000.00) Village Green Golf Course Condo 2BR/2BA, 1st. floor corner unit w/enclosed balcony and great golf course view. 960 SF, hard-wood floors in 3 rooms, and tiles in kitchen, bathrooms, hallway and balcony. Designated covered parking for 1 non commercial vehicle. Close to beach, shops, schools and downtown Sarasota. Near I-75 and US 41. NO PETS allowed.

\$ 1000.00 security deposit and 1st month rent of \$ 850.00 unfurnished, or \$995.00 furnished incl. water and Cable, and there are community pool and washer and dryer right there for your convenience.

6. The players will be eliminated after 2 or 3 losses (depending on the number of players. We try to give players more chances to play).

Finals

Finals are to be played on the date scheduled.

Prize:

The champion of each group will get a trophy and a certificate. The second and third places will get certificates.

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

Saturday double feature Chinese film series

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

Series is designed by Dr. Carolyn Bloomer to support her Cultural Beliefs course Modern China, and is co-sponsored by the Gulfcoast Chinese American Association and the Sarasota Chapter of the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association. For more information contact: cbloomer@Ringling.edu

March 15

Biographical films of notable 20th century Chinese artists who are considered modern cultural heroes. 1:30:

La Peinture 画魂 (*Hua hun* / Soul of an artist)

Director, Huang Shuqin, 1994. 91 min. Stars Gong Li

Sold into a brothel as a child, 潘玉良 Pan Yuliang (1899 - 1977) escapes and becomes a student at the Shanghai Art Academy founded by Liu Haisu, who had recently returned from studying in Europe, and whose school is frequently shut down by the police for using nude models. With Liu's sponsorship, Pan eventually studies in Paris herself and goes on to become China's most well-known 20th-century woman artist.

3:30:

Liu Tianhua 刘天花

Director, Nanjing Film Studio, 2000. 100 min.

This "love of country" film 爱国电影, is a straight-forward, loving biography of Liu Tianhua, China's most important 20th century composer / conductor (1895-1932), remembered for his contributions to invigorating and raising the level of Chinese music based on indigenous culture.

April 5

Recent big-budget New Year's spectaculars 贺岁片.

1:30

The Banquet 夜宴 (*Ye yan*)

Director, Feng Xiaogang, 2006 134 min.

Stars Ge You, Zhang Ziyi, Zhou Xun. Choreography by Yuan Woo Pei.

Set in 907 at the end of the Tang Dynasty, this film about palace intrigue involves imprisonments, executions, sexual powers, and complicated blood, family and succession relationships. Although having superficial references to *Hamlet* and *McBeth* – this is a deeply Chinese film in its dramatization of female ambition, and its continually transforming configurations of yin/yang and karmic relationships. The cinematography and wire-work are outstanding.

4:00

Silver Hawk 飞鹰 (*Fei ying*)

Director, Ma Jingle, 2004. 99 min. Stars Michelle Yeoh.

A futuristic James-Bond type extravaganza in which the adopted daughter of a rich man has a secret identity as a masked crime-fighter. Teaming up with a classmate from her childhood martial arts training who has become police chief, the two are pitted against a blue-eyed Germanic villain with two bionic arms who seeks to dominate the world by brainwashing cell-phone users. Fast-paced, plenty of action, futuristic urban settings.

Please call +1 9413237565, or E-mail retcolsas@yahoo.com for details.

PC for sale

Dell SC430 Desktop Computer

Pentium 4 3.0 GHz Processor w. Hyperthreading

80 GB SATA Hard Drive

48X CD burner

DVD ROM Drive

Creative Audigy 2 ZS PCI Soundcard

512MB DDR2 RAM

USB keyboard and mouse

Windows XP Professional SP2

Microsoft Office 2003 Pro

ZoneAlarm Personal Firewall

Avast! Antivirus Home Edition

Whisper Quiet. Asking \$200. Call Bryan 941-544-8058

PC for sale

Dell Dimension 8300 Desktop Computer

Pentium 4 3.0 GHz Processor w Hyperthreading

60GB ATA Hard Drive

CD ROM Drive

128mb Radeon 9800 Pro Video Card with Arctic Cooler technology

1GB DDR400 RAM

Keyboard & Mouse

Windows XP Pro Service Pack 2

Microsoft Office 2003 Pro

ZoneAlarm Personal Firewall

Avast! Antivirus Home Edition

Asking \$200. Call Bryan, 941-544-8058

17" Dell CRT color Monitor \$50

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

Location: All films will be screened on the campus of Ringling School of Art and Design in Room CJ-9 in the Christ-Janer Center, located on the south side of Martin Luther King Boulevard south of the Selby Gallery. It is building #24 on the campus map available on line at <http://www.rsad.edu/fileadmin/pdf/CampusMap.pdf> (although the building itself is marked #21).

Parking available in the two lots on the south side of Martin Luther King.

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

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 Qinghong Wei at qhwei89@gmail.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 odd numbered months, Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov 2008, it will be at:
Grand China Buffet (Tel: 341-9868) 3969 Cattlemen Rd., Sarasota, FL 34233
At the southwest corner of I-75 (Exit 207) and Bee Ridge, between Burlington Coat Factory and Home Depot.

For even numbered months, Feb/Apr/June/Aug/Oct/Dec 2008, it will be at:
Oriental Buffet (Tel: 377-6699) 4458 Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota (Take Exit 207 and head west for 2 mi; turn left before MacIntosh into the plaza at the southeast intersection with McIntosh).

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

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.

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

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 words to elin@ingenious.com and Ms. Libin Huang libinh@linkingbt.com.

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
Qinghong Wei, Secretary qhwei89@gmail.com, (941) 284-1379

Matters relating to sports programs
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, cbloomer@comcast.net (941) 351-0995

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

How to unsubscribe to this Newsletter:
Please send email to elin@ingenious.com or libinh@linkingbt.com
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/>

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!

--- Edward Lin

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

Spotlight on members and families

Dr. Frank & Mrs. Jenny Shao

The Shao family name is common among Chinese in the U.S.A. Dr. Shao came to the U.S. with an American dream as a foreign student at the Univ. of Washington in 1990. He was an assistant professor in Shanghai Univ. of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) before he came to the U.S.A. Later on he was invited as a professor to teach Chinese medicine in Florida Institute of TCM in St. Petersburg. Dr. Shao's wife and son reunited with him later in the States and the family moved to Sarasota in 1992. Dr. Shao started his practice and opened his own clinic - China Healing Center. He dedicates his medical skills and knowledge to his patients. He has helped numerous patients with difficult problems. His patients are not only from local but also from other cities and States. He has earned good reputation. His wife, Jenny, helps to manage his clinic very well. Every patient likes her. She was a gynecologist in Shanghai Hospital before she came to the U.S. Dr. Shao is a cofounder and first-President of GCAA before it was officially incorporated. His son, Jack, follows his parents' steps to be a doctor. He is studying medicine at Case Western Reserve University - School of Medicine.

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

Dr. Jonathan & Mrs. Sophia Fong

Jonathan was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA. He graduated from Thomas Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and received his cardiothoracic surgery training at University of Rochester, NY. The Fong family moved to Nokomis in the summer of 2003 when the former Bon Secours Hospital (currently known as Venice Regional Medical Center) opened its heart surgery program. The program was recently recognized as the best in the Sarasota-Bradenton area, 3rd in Florida, and Top 5% in the Nation for cardiac surgery by HealthGrades® 2008. Jonathan enjoys swimming with the Sarasota Sharks (5:30am if anyone wants to join him) and playing on the piano. On Sundays, you will find him on the keyboard with the Praise and Worship Team at Grace United Methodist Church in Venice.

Sophia left Hong Kong in 1981 to pursue her college education in the U.S. She obtained her B.S. in Urban Studies from Cornell University and Masters in City Planning from University of Pennsylvania. Upon graduation, she worked as a transportation analyst/planner with a traffic engineering firm and met Jonathan and his family at the Chinese Christian Church in Philadelphia. Besides taking care of all her boys at home, Sophia devotes much of her time at Pine View School and various community activities in the Venice area. When time allows, she enjoys going to a women's Bible Study and a prayer group for students.

Their two boys, James and Alex, ages 13 and 10, respectively, attend Pine View School. They both enjoy playing tennis and flag-football, and like to build and disassemble Legos, Bionicles, and Transformers. Their favorite games include Risk, Stratego, Apples to Apples, Chess and Wii, of course.

The Fongs have been active supporters of GCAA. We are blessed by their giving and generosity.

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

The Van Tuyl Family

Jocelyn Van Tuyl, who earned her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. at Yale University, is a professor of French Language and Literature at New College of Florida, the honors liberal arts college of Florida's state university system. Professor Van Tuyl encourages GCAA families with college-bound students to consider New College, a highly selective college which offers a wide range of liberal arts programs right here in Sarasota. Interested students should contact the Admissions office at 487-5000 or visit their web site at <http://www.ncf.edu/admissions/index.html> to request information or arrange a visit.

Jocelyn enjoys learning new languages and was delighted to have the chance to study Chinese at the Sarasota Chinese Academy last year. Two years ago, she was so embarrassed by former GCAA President Dr. Ed Lin's friendly teasing about New College's lack of Mandarin courses that she proposed the addition of two professors of Chinese Language and Culture to the faculty. New College now has a new and dynamic Chinese program spearheaded by GCAA member Professor Jing Zhang and her new colleague, who will be arriving this fall.

In 2000, Jocelyn adopted her daughter Mileva Xiuying in Fujian Province, China. Mileva is a third-grader at Pine View school, where her favorite subjects are math and reading. In her free time, she enjoys strategy games and playing sports with her friends. Mileva is a talented trumpet player who performs with the Encore Orchestra. She is also a generally terrific kid!

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

5. Upcoming events & attractions

XIAMEN DELEGATION VISIT TO SARASOTA LED BY MAYOR PAN SHIJIAN

Late March or Early April

A 12-people Xiamen Delegation Team led by Mayor Pan Shijian is planning to visit Sarasota in late March or early April. The delegation is interested in learning Arts and Urban planning, also the Marina planning, construction and operation from the city of Sarasota. The delegation's short stay in Sarasota will be warmly welcomed by SSCA, GCAA and USCPFA.

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

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SUMMIT 2008 "Collaboration and Growth through Diversity"

Tampa Convention Center, May 1, 2008

The International Business Summit 2008 will be held at the Tampa Convention Center on May 1. This is an extraordinary event filled with informative workshops, business exhibitions/vendors, and a dynamic International Panel.

[View the schedule of events through this link.](#)

The International Business Summit 2008 is being hosted by nine different Chambers of Commerce in the Tampa Bay area including:

- [British American Business Council](#)
- [Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay](#)
- [Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay](#)
- [Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [French American Business Council of West Florida](#)
- [Indo-US Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Philippine American Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Tampa Bay Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce](#)

The diverse Chambers of Commerce and the many business organizations that have come together to participate are tremendously excited about this event. We will continue our tradition of providing new and interesting topics along with fresh ideas from the delegates, while remaining focused on international business and trade. The Summit chairs have selected plenary speakers that have demonstrated leadership in their respective fields and will present new opportunities for business and

trade from a regional and global perspective.

This will also be a chance for Tampa Bay's own organizations and leaders to stand proudly and share their perspectives and future visions in a magnificent and inspiring setting. If you would like to become a sponsor, please [click here](#).

We truly look forward to you and your organization's attendance and participation.

Sincerely yours,

[IB Summit Board of Directors](#)

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

CAROLYN BLOOMER AND WEI QINGHONG'S CHINA TOUR: ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN CULTURE

Beijing / Shanghai / Xiamen / Hong Kong
May 24 - June 7 (14 days)

Beijing: sleep in a traditional courtyard mansion, meet with architects and urban planners at Tsinghua University, enjoy a rickshaw ride through old Beijing hutongs, visit a privately renovated traditional residence, see the new Olympic stadium ("The Nest"),

Shanghai: stay in Shanghai Mansions, a famed Art Deco hotel overlooking the Bund; visit the astonishing Shanghai City Planning Museum, meet with prominent Shanghai architects to learn about historic restoration in Shanghai, savor dinner in a remodeled 1920s villa

Xiamen: Enjoy an official Sister City welcome, stay in a waterfront hotel adjoining the restored Zhongshan Lu shopping district, tour historic 19-century colonial architecture on Gulangyu Island; meet with Xiamen Municipal Planning Department

Hong Kong: enjoy accommodations just off Nathan Road ("The Golden Mile"), dine on renovated Victoria Peak, meet with Hong Kong architects and take a walking tour of modern buildings in downtown Hong Kong

PLUS: usual sight-seeing and plenty of opportunities for shopping.

This tour takes advantage of Qinghong's and Carolyn's personal contacts in China, and will be of special interest to architects, urban planners, interior designers, feng shui practitioners, developers and investors – as well as non-specialists wanting an up-to-date inside view of current urban issues from movers and shakers in today's China.

For detailed information about the tour, please e-mail Carolyn and Qinghong at:
chinacitiestour@comcast.net.

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

6. Feature Articles and Reports

A BREATH OF LIFE

By Laurie St. Denis

Take a deep breath in . . . and now exhale. Would you believe that as you took one breath 2 children throughout the world will be "aged out" of, and required to leave their institution or orphanage, with no family to belong to and no place to call home? That equals 38,500 children every day . . . one child

every 2.2 seconds . . . in one breath! As they are cast out these orphans are vulnerable and unprepared for the harsh realities of living on the streets. Beneath their hurt, anger, and wounded hearts an orphans' greatest fear is that *indeed* . . . they have been forgotten.

Seeds of Hope China exists to let the orphans in China know they are far from being forgotten. They are in fact the object of our special attention, love, and care. We believe that in spite of such staggering statistics, there is hope for the orphans and that one person can make a positive difference in their life.

What is Seeds of Hope China? It's a volunteer based organization committed to meeting the physical, emotional, and eternal needs of the orphans that remain in China. Our vision is to empower the local communities where we are involved to be self sufficient in their efforts to care for and reach the orphans.

In September 2007 Seeds of Hope China began providing assistance to 11 older orphan girls at Helena's House of Hope in Jiangsu Province. Before coming to Helena's House of Hope the girls lived their entire lives in the local orphanage. The orphanage also cares for mentally ill adults so the girls never had an opportunity to experience a "normal life" and would have aged out of the system.

Rejoice! After only 6 months at Helena's House of Hope they are learning social/life skills, continuing their education, and have hopes of becoming productive members of society!

We invite you to experience the joy and rich rewards that come from bringing value, meaning, and opportunities into the lives of these girls.

Their road ahead is filled with many challenges but ... we can remind them they are not forgotten.

***~ The most terrible poverty is loneliness and the feeling of being unloved. ~
Mother Theresa***

For more information on how you can be involved contact Laurie:

Email: Lbstdenis@msn.com, Tel: 650-3798

After March 5, 2007, website should be up: www.seedsofhopechina.org

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

Other featured articles:

[There's Something About the Mountains](#)

a poem by Marguerite Jill Dye

There's something about the mountains
That calms a troubled soul.
The air is fresh, the sky is blue
Serenity, extolled.

Red foxes, bear and coyotes,
Squirrels and beaver run,
Hunt and play in meadows and fields,
On peaks and ledges in fog or sun.

Honking geese fly in formation
Bald eagles and hawks soar on high
Looking down with bird's eye view
For mice and rabbits passing by.

The woods and forests hug
The mountains that carry them,
Ancient, cragged, granite peaks
Tower above inner sanctums.

There's something about the mountains
That allows my heart to unfurl,
Earthy concerns and the stresses of life
Disappear. All's right with the world.

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

7. Helpful info and articles of interest

[Cold Drugs Put 7,000 Children A Year in ERs](#)

Study Cites Access, Dosage in Ages 2-5

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/28/AR2008012801938.html>

By Rob Stein

Washington Post Staff Writer

Tuesday, January 29, 2008; Page A03

More than 7,000 children get rushed to emergency rooms each year after suffering adverse reactions to cough and cold medicines, according to the first national estimate of the risks posed by the widely used remedies.

Most of the problems occur in children ages 2 to 5 who get into the medications on their own, researchers said. They based their conclusions on an analysis of data from a nationally representative sample of 63 emergency rooms in 2004 and 2005.

"Anytime a child ends up in the emergency department because they had access to a bottle of medication, that is a problem that could be prevented," said Daniel S. Budnitz of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which conducted the research.

The report comes as the Food and Drug Administration considers whether to further restrict the use of the products because of concern about their risks and questions about their effectiveness. Critics and supporters of the products seized on the new report to support their positions.

"This is a lot of trips to the emergency room for products that have no known benefit," said Joshua M. Sharfstein, Baltimore's public health commissioner and the leader of a coalition of pediatricians that petitioned the FDA to restrict promotion of the products for use by children. "It's time to pull the plug on the marketing of these products."

But Linda A. Suydam of the Consumer Healthcare Products Association, an industry group, said the report shows that the problem stemmed primarily from parents giving the wrong dose or failing to make sure the products were out of the reach of children.

"These really are situations where parents were perhaps confused and gave the wrong dosage or inadvertently left out their medication in a way that children could get into them," she said. She defended the effectiveness of the products and their safety when used properly, saying parents want continued access to them.

Last fall, the industry voluntarily withdrew all products marketed for children younger than 2 but said the products were safe and effective for older children.

An FDA advisory panel, however, voted that there was no evidence that the products were effective and recommended against their use in children younger than 6.

On Jan. 16, the FDA formally urged parents not to use the products in children younger than 2, citing recent surveys showing that many parents continue to use them. Agency officials said they had not

determined what to do about older children.

Sharfstein filed his petition after four children in Baltimore who had ingested the remedies died. The CDC said last year that at least 1,500 children younger than 2 had complications in 2004 and 2005 from the products, and an FDA review noted dozens of cases of convulsions, heart problems, trouble breathing, neurological complications and other reactions, including at least 123 deaths.

The new report, published online yesterday by the journal *Pediatrics*, is the first attempt to get a nationwide estimate of the extent of the problems.

Researchers analyzed data collected by a nationwide drug safety surveillance system that gathers information from 63 emergency rooms to provide a representative sampling of adverse drug events. The researchers identified 301 cases between Jan. 1, 2004, and Dec. 31, 2005. Extrapolated nationwide, that works out to 7,091 cases a year. Cold and cough drugs account for 5.7 percent of all medicine-related visits to the emergency room by children younger than 12, the researchers found.

In most of the cases, the researchers were unable to determine what symptoms the children experienced. But in those cases where that information was available, 19 percent had allergic reactions, and 13 percent had neurological symptoms such as sleepiness or problems walking.

Although the cases included prescription and over-the-counter products, the researchers said most of them involved nonprescription products.

Children ages 2 to 5 accounted for 64 percent of the cases, and nearly 80 percent of the cases in this age group involved situations where children got into the products without their parents' knowledge. But in the remaining cases, either the parents gave the wrong dose or a correct dose produced an adverse reaction.

Ninety-three percent of the cases did not require the children to be hospitalized, but about 7 percent required additional treatment. The researchers did not know whether any children died.

Based on the findings, the researchers recommended a number of steps to reduce the risk, such as encouraging parents to make sure products are kept capped and out of reach, designing better child-proof containers and avoiding colors that make the products look appealing to children.

"We have a wide range of options that we can do today and implement in the future," Budnitz said.

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

Book Review "Have It All: Achieving Your Life's Goals and Dreams"

Authored by John Assaraf

Source: http://www.amazon.com/Having-All-Achieving-Lifes-Dreams/dp/141656361X/ref=pd_bbs_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1204457883&sr=8-1

Review

"If having abundance in your life is what you want...*Having It All* delivers!"

-- Robert G. Allen, author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *Nothing Down, Creating Wealth*, and *Multiple Streams of Income*

"If you are ready to let The Street Kid's wisdom help you become happy, rich, and fulfilled...read this now!"

-- Mark Victor Hansen, coauthor of the #1 *New York Times* bestselling series *Chicken Soup for the Soul* and coauthor of *The One Minute Millionaire*

Book Description

No matter what you want in your life, *Having It All* will take you from where you are to where you want to be. Entrepreneur John Assaraf started with nothing and went on to create a multimillion-dollar empire and achieve the life of his dreams, earning himself the nickname "The Street Kid." Now he shares the best of what he's learned so you, too, can create the life of your dreams. *Having It All* contains practical exercises and powerful lessons to help you achieve greater happiness and long-lasting success. You will learn how to:

- Develop and utilize the seven power factors all highly successful people use
- Apply the most advanced techniques that world-class athletes and entrepreneurs use to eliminate mental obstacles
- Pinpoint and design the exact life you truly want
- Use the power of your subconscious mind to develop empowering success habits

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

8. The Funnies

>> 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.

>> A doctor and a lawyer in two cars collided on a country road. The lawyer, seeing that the doctor was a little shaken up, helped him from the car and offered him a drink from his hip flask. The doctor accepted and handed the flask back to the lawyer, who closed it and put it away. "Aren't you going to have a drink yourself?" asked the doctor. "Sure, after the police leave," replied the attorney

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

Disclaimer

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

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

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