

**Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCAA) Newsletter  
May-June Issue 2006 (release date May 2, 2006)**

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Please note: if you feel you should be on our email list and for some reason are not receiving this newsletter and other GCAA notices, please help us amend our database by sending an email to [elin@ingenious.com](mailto:elin@ingenious.com) with copy to Dr. Kevin Hu at [cunkuohu@yahoo.com](mailto:cunkuohu@yahoo.com) and Helen Pollak at [hwpollak@comcast.net](mailto:hwpollak@comcast.net). Thank you.  
To unsubscribe, see end of newsletter.

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The GCAA Newsletter is sponsored in part by Anthony Olson, PA, 2020 Cattlemen Rd., Suite 100 Sarasota, FL 34232 Phone: (941) 362-7100, and in N. Ft. Myers, FL. (239) 332-4545  
Visit <http://www.immigrationvisausa.com/VisaOptn.html> for helpful Q&A about visa options.

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Our firm practices business immigration law, as well as employment-based and family-based immigration law. We can assist you in getting settled in any U.S. state, and help you form your U.S. corporation in the state of your choice."

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**1. URGENT NOTICES: =====**

- a) **Chinese Film Festival** to be held on Monday May 8. See details below under "5. Upcoming events and attractions"
- b) **FREE professional Family Beach Portrait (a \$100 value!)** when you support Pine View's Class of 2007 with a \$25 donation! Includes sitting fee and 1-8x10 photo from Moments In Time Photography. Satisfaction is guaranteed. Your friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, etc. are also welcome to participate **or receive this offer as a gift from you.**

To take advantage of this offer, you must send a \$25 check payable to "Pine View School

Class of 2007" and mail it to: Laura Lin, 1109 Millpond Court, Osprey, FL 34229  
Please include on your check, your name, address, and phone number.

**Check must be received by May 12 (but the photography date can be arranged for later to suit your schedule).**

Please contact Fred Mailloux or Rick Geiger for appointment and location (941) 362-4567  
Moments In Time Photography, 6616 Gateway Ave., Sarasota, FL 34231

## **2. News of the Association =====**

### Message from the President

Dear Members and friends of GCAA,

As an all inclusive organization, GCAA warmly welcomes in brotherhood and friendship all who are interested in Chinese culture and friendship with the Chinese people. We live in a time wanting of world peace and geopolitical stability. It is expedient for political opportunists to point to America's problems and blame it conveniently on other countries such as China and India. Such sentiments can directly affect GCAA members and their children, at work, at school and at play. As your president, I'd like to share some information with you that can be helpful in engaging fellow Americans in a healthy and reasoned discussion on US-China relations.

As we all know, blaming is easy and satisfying, but does nothing to help understand or deal with the actual problems which only fester with increasing neglect.

Take, for example, the unfortunate loss of over one million manufacturing jobs in the US in recent years. On first look, it is clear many of these jobs have gone to Asian nations such as China and India, and it'd appear therefore these countries deserve blame for taking these jobs from Americans.

Laura D'Andrea Tyson (currently, Dean of the London Business School and formerly Dean of the Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley), an internationally renowned American economist, wrote in recent issues of BusinessWeek that the loss of manufacturing jobs is **worldwide** and permanent, and due to improved productivity and efficiency brought about by computers, software and automation. While US lost 1 million jobs, China lost over 24 million during the same time period. The impact of technology is felt worldwide. In order to remain a global leader, we must be willing to adapt and continue to innovate. Change is inevitable.

Dr. D'Andrea Tyson also wrote:

"Despite the howls from Congress, China's management of its exchange rate is not the reason America's current account deficit has soared in this period. As Morgan Stanley economist Stephen S. Roach recently observed, it would take the current account surpluses of 10 economies -- including those of Japan, China, Russia, Germany, and Saudi Arabia -- to equal the U.S. current account deficit. America is running a massive current account gap not because of an undervalued Chinese currency, but because the U.S. is saving too little to finance its investment needs. America's net national savings rate has been hovering at a record low of 1.5% of GDP since 2002"

"China's exports in the electronics industry have driven out similar exports from competing higher-cost Asian economies. The real victims of China's formidable production cost advantages are its emerging-market competitors. And American consumers have been the beneficiaries. Since 1997, U.S. consumers have saved about \$100 billion a year in import bills as lower-priced goods, primarily from China, have supplanted goods from other regions.

China's large trade surplus with the U.S., obscures the fact that China is also a voracious importer. Since 1995, China's imports have grown twice as fast as U.S. imports. This year, sales to China will account for nearly three-quarters of the increase in Japan's exports, 40% of the rise in Korea's exports, 99% of the boost in Taiwan's exports, and about a quarter of the increase in

U.S. exports. China is America's fastest-growing export market, expanding at an annual rate of about 20%. American companies sell \$20 billion worth of goods to China.

Finally, China is nurturing America's economic expansion by helping to keep U.S. interest rates low through substantial purchases of government debt. During the past year and a half, China bought more than \$100 billion in U.S. government securities. China is a primary source of funding for the U.S. fiscal and current-account deficits.”

It is impossible in the very limited space here to even scratch the surface of the complex co-dependent and mutually benefiting relationship between the US and China. There are legitimate grievances, and we need to understand the facts surrounding this complex issue before we can determine how best to improve the situation, and help make America a stronger nation.

I have been trying to reach out to more Chinese in our community, those who work in the service sector (such as restaurants) and wish to provide GCAA Newsletters in Chinese to them. We need volunteers willing to translate for us and to provide delivery of the translated newsletter to area restaurants. Please contact Dr. Kevin Hu if you are willing to help.

**Lastly, but not the least, it is time to pay tribute to certain GCAA members who have continued to work to make GCAA a better organization.**

I regret to announce Jinbo Yin’s resignation as Co-Chair of the Programs Committee. Jinbo has worked tirelessly on behalf of GCAA, and along with Tracey La, helped pull off our enormously successful MAF and CNY06 celebrations. Along with Tracey La and Helen Wu Pollak, the three were recognized as Outstanding Volunteers during CNY06. We are deeply thankful to Jinbo for what he has accomplished and served as Programs co-Chair and thank him for his continued service to our organization as Co-Principal of the new Chinese language School, Sarasota Chinese Academy. Please see news about the Academy for proper recognition of all those who have helped to make this a reality.

I am very pleased to announce that we now have a great team in place for our website, to be headed by Troy Lim, John Zhu and Becky Culp. Thanks also to Drs. Kevin Hu and Henry Zhu for their work in forming our web team.

Thanks also to Dr. Carolyn Bloomer for the enormously enjoyable movies shown every third Saturday of the month. Don’t miss out, join us again for more favorite Chinese movies on May 20

In closing, I urge you to become involved in your Association and in your community. In making a better world, **we ALL can make a difference, and we must!**

Regards to all,

*Ed*

Dr. Edward Lin  
GCAA President  
Encourage Inspire Empower

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

### **3. Who to contact about what within GCAA =====**

#### **Matters relating to new/suggested GCAA Programs:**

Dr. Xueji Zhang [zxj001us@yahoo.com](mailto:zxj001us@yahoo.com) 941- 926-3273

#### **Matters relating to current GCAA Programs:**

Jinbo Yin [best\\_ck9103@yahoo.com](mailto:best_ck9103@yahoo.com) (941) 966-4355

Tracey La [Parisces26@comcast.net](mailto:Parisces26@comcast.net) (941) 780-3011

**Matters relating to membership and how to join or website**

Dr. Kevin Hu [cunkuohu@yahoo.com](mailto:cunkuohu@yahoo.com) (941) 923-3712

Dr. Henry Zhu [hexiangzhu@hotmail.com](mailto:hexiangzhu@hotmail.com) (941) 758-2051

**Matters relating to monthly socials**

Helen Pollak [hwpollak@comcast.net](mailto:hwpollak@comcast.net) (941) 929-9266

**GCAA website**

WebMaster Troy Lim [troyhlim@gmail.com](mailto:troyhlim@gmail.com))

Asst. WebMaster Becky Culp [becky@pelicani.com](mailto:becky@pelicani.com)

Asst. WebMaster John Zhu [juntaozhu15@yahoo.com](mailto:juntaozhu15@yahoo.com)

**Sarasota Chinese Academy [Chinese Language School]**

Co-Principal: Sophia Fong ([syik63@comcast.net](mailto:syik63@comcast.net)) and

Jinbo Ying ([best\\_ck9103@yahoo.com](mailto:best_ck9103@yahoo.com)) (941) 966-4355.

**Other issues:**

Dr. Edward Lin [elin@ingenious.com](mailto:elin@ingenious.com) (941) 966-0890

**4. Programs Committee Report =====**

**CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL TO START by Jinbo Yin.**

With the great support and volunteers we have, we are very pleased to announce that Sarasota Chinese Academy will start beginning fall 2006. A "Get Acquainted" open session was held on 4/30 between 2:00-4:00 at the Grace United Methodist Church in Venice (not the location of classes). The first class will commence on 8/13 (Sunday) **at Faith Presbyterian Church (located at 1201 North Beneva Road, Sarasota)**. We plan to have several classes (including beginners' classes for adult and children, as well as pre-schoolers, and one children's intermediate class) to be held at the same time from 1:00-3:00 on Sundays (follow Sarasota County School calendar). Deadline of registration is Jul 7. Registration fee is \$40 per student per school year and tuition is \$120 per student for GCAA member and \$150 for non-member.

We wish to thank Laurie St. Denis for securing Faith Presbyterian Church's classrooms for our Chinese lessons. We also like to thank Sophia Fong, and all other board members and officers who have all worked hard to secure alternative classroom locations. Faith Presbyterian Church was chosen for its more central location.

**Sarasota Chinese Academy Volunteer Team:**

Teachers: Yang Yan, Hui-Ming Wen, Kitty Wang, Annie Shih, Jie Lin and Qinghong Han.

Officers: Jinbo Yin (Principal), Sophia Fong (Vice Principal), Hui-Min Wen (Secretary) and Kim Hung (Treasure).

Board members: Xueji Zhang (chairman), Kevin Hu, Hui-Min Wen, Sophia Fong & Jinbo Yin

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**5. Upcoming events and attractions =====**

## PLAYERS THEATRE 2006 CHINESE FILM FESTIVAL

Monday, May 8

5 p.m.

### **A Father with his Twenty-five Children**, 二十五个孩子一个爹, 2002

Director: Huang Hong, 2002. 92 min.

Winner of two international children's film awards.

In this heartwarming movie, Zhao Guang, owner of a successful chicken farm, was originally a poor orphan raised by the villagers. When he donates some of the money saved for his wedding to a local orphanage, he is interviewed on local television and rashly declares that he would love to be the "father of every orphan!" Taking him at his word, 25 children soon show up seeking their new "father", and turn his life upside-down. Hesitant at first, Zhao opens his heart; as his love grows so does the value of his life. This film will be a big hit with Chinese-speaking children and English-speaking children able to read subtitles.

7:30 p.m.

### **Chinese Odyssey 2002** 天下无双, 2002

Director: Jeffrey Lau, Hong Kong. Producer: Wong Kar-wai. 97 min.

Winner of Hong Kong Critics Award for Best Film and Best Actress

Set in the Ming Dynasty, this witty, fast-paced farce based on gender confusions is beautifully photographed and costumed, with an upbeat original sound-track. A brother and sister – emperor and princess – conspire to escape the Forbidden City in disguise and meet in the village of Meilong. Posing as a young man, the princess meets Bully the Kid, the rough-hewn son of Meilong's local restaurant owner. Bully's sister, Phoenix, falls for the princess-in-disguise, and Bully, desirous of finding Phoenix a suitable mate, pushes the relationship. In the meantime the princess falls for Bully, who of course has no clue to her identity. Soon the emperor arrives *incognito* and falls in love with Phoenix .... How does it all work out? What if Shakespeare, Mel Brooks, or Monty Python had been Chinese?

#### TICKETS:

Call 365-2494 (Reservations are required for the buffet supper)

One film and Chinese buffet: \$14

Both films and Chinese buffet: \$18

Each film (no buffet) \$6 / Students with ID \$5

Introductions and Q & A by Dr. Carolyn Bloomer

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Third Saturday Chinese Film Series at Ringling School: May 20, 2006. FREE!!!!!!

Starting at 1:30PM at Goldstein Classroom 1: A series of Chinese Animations for children of all ages, including such classics as "Where's Mama?", "Three Monks", "Boy with Three Hairs", "Cow-Herder's Flute", "36 Chinese Characters", "Essence of Mountains and Waters", "Shore Bird and Clam Fighting".

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**China Bookworms Group to meet** on Thursday, 7 PM May 18 at Miriam Cassell's home

To discuss ***SNOW FLOWER AND THE SECRET FAN***'

By Lisa See, 2005. NY: Random House Trade Paperback ISBN 0-8129-6 806-9

A compelling narrative constructed around the relationship between two *laotong* – i.e. mid-19th century females of Yao ethnicity who are ceremonially matched in childhood to be lifelong friends. They write to each other over the years in *nu shu* (lit. women's writing), the most important writings commemorated in the folds of a fan. The narrative is related in the first-person by Lily about her relationship with Snow Flower over a period of more than 60 years as they experience footbinding, marriage, motherhood, political instability (Taiping Rebellion), and grandmothering. An amazing book – but the degree to which it represents a normative woman's experience for the

period is open to question. Lisa See is an ABC (American-born Chinese) who (according to her author notes) required an interpreter on her visits to China; much of the book is based on extensive interviews with one 90+ year-old woman. (synopsis by Dr. Carolyn Bloomer)  
Meeting location: at Miriam Cassell's home at 1240 Center Place. Her house is in Lido Shores. The street is two blocks off John Ringling Blvd. just north of Morningside Drive. Her number is 388-6426

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## 6. 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, Tracey La or me if you are willing to do your part. "We all can make a difference, and we must!"

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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](mailto: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, 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 even numbered months, Feb/Apr/June/Aug/Oct/Dec 2006, it will be at:  
Oriental Buffet (Tel: 377-6699)  
4458 Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota (Take Exit 207 and head west for 2 mi;  
turn left before MacIntosh into the plaza at the southeast intersection with McIntosh).

For odd numbered months, Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov 2006, it will be at:  
Grand China Buffet (Tel: 341-9868)  
3969 Cattlemen Rd., Sarasota, FL 34233  
At the southwest corner of I-75 (Exit 207) and Bee Ridge, between Burlington Coat Factory and Home Depot.

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

The "GCAA and FCC Singers" our budding choir of young singers delighted attendees at the Opening Ceremony of the month-long celebration of Embracing our Differences on Island Park at Sarasota's bay front on April 2. In random order, they are:

[Anna Millbourn](#), Andrew Zhang, Christine Yin, Katherine Yin, Yvonne Shih, Linda Shih  
[Clarissa Liu](#), Nancy Hu, Jennifer Zhang, [Mileva Van Tuyl](#); [Georgia Kate Yeomans](#)  
[MeiMei Malave](#), [Elisa Malave](#), [Jaimee Rudick](#), [Hannah Wang](#) and [Joshua Wang](#)

Our thanks to all the children and their families for representing all of us so well. And special thanks to Mary Lisa Millbourn for coordinating both of the above events. Ms, LeeAn Chung also awed everyone with her graceful and lovely performance of the traditional silk ribbon dance. We hope she'll agree to perform it for everyone for CNY on February 18, 2007. Mark you calendar now.

## 9. Feature Article

## **Looking back and Reflections on Hurricane Katrina** by Bryan Lin

Work, cold shower, sleep. 7am to 4pm daily. Sounds a lot like someone's work schedule doesn't it? In a way it was, except that we were college students, and we weren't getting paid. In fact, we dipped into our own pockets to come up with money to rent a van and to pay for gas and food for this privilege. We would come back to the church we stayed in, exhausted each day, only to get up again the next morning to continue carting out the remains of 74 year old Mrs. Anna Guidry's life and dumping it on her sidewalk.

A month before Hurricane Katrina, Ms. Anna lost her husband. She hadn't had the heart to get rid of his belongings after his death, but now it was we who were doing it, trying to salvage what little there was that was not yet damaged beyond recognition. A set of prayer beads, a water-damaged scrapbook, a class ring. Small tokens of the life she once had. Located only one block from the 17th street canal breach, Ms. Anna's house sat for months with water up to its roof in the stagnant water, which left its mark as a brown waterline that stretched for miles. Like so many others, Ms. Anna had no flood insurance.

**"Just break it. I can't use it no more," 33-year-old Stuart Moses told a group of students struggling to get a 65-inch TV out of his home in the Lower Ninth Ward.**

At the end of the street, a shrimp boat sits stranded in a ditch. Nearer to the breach, the foundations of houses that are nowhere to be found. While most of the homes in New Orleans look okay on the outside, words alone cannot describe the conditions inside. Even pictures cannot do the situation justice. Pictures cannot capture the damp stench of mold that is omnipresent in all of New Orleans, the emotions that one feels as you empty someone's home of everything they once had. They cannot capture the incredible weight of the hopelessness here, the silence as one drives through miles of empty, water-lined neighborhoods, knowing that you have gutted but one house out of thousands. The area looks like the storm hit two weeks ago, not six months.

And yet, what I have described so far is but a glimpse at the surface of what has been lost. A step inside a broken home whispers the pain of those who once lived there. Mud, furniture scattered and ruined, broken glass, mirrors, fallen ceilings, and most of all, the familiar carpet of black fuzz across the walls: mold. Maggots and cockroaches thrive in the abandoned pantries and toxic floodwater still left from the storm. Some hardy fish swim in grimy pools that now host their own ecosystems, though you could never hope to see to the bottom, wherever the pool ends. Even ants don't appear here, so toxic and destroyed is the environment. A respirator mask is mandatory if one hopes to preserve their health here, yet wherever you go, even in the French Quarter, the stench of the mold still lingers.

Where is the government, the leadership, the reasons to hold hope?

The strength of will required to keep going here must be enormous. We are here but a week. We have homes, families, dreams to come back to. They have nothing. We are so incredibly fortunate, even as volunteers with minimum shelter. Some volunteers do not even have that. They live in tents. And even then, they are so far ahead of those who actually have to live here.

**"That's 52 years of marriage going out on the curb"**

Ms. Anna's story is one of thousands of others, just as devastating. Ask any resident and they will have a story to tell, each as sad and unforgettable as the next. This stoic woman sat in a rusty chair outside her home and watched as we carried 52 years of marriage, memories, and dreams out of her house and left them in a pile on her sidewalk. She lost almost everything. Her neighbor across the street who had flood insurance received a paltry \$1100 for the entire contents of his home. One woman was ineligible for hurricane relief because she happened to be on vacation when the hurricane hit. Her possessions: two sets of clothes and a suitcase. And in

some twisted way, they are still the lucky ones. For most in the lower 9th Ward, the poorest area of New Orleans, there was nothing to come back to, except to find out how many family members survived, and how many died. Too poor to own a car, and too slow to escape on foot, most had to take their chances weathering out the storm. Many were not lucky enough to survive. On every building in New Orleans, there is an X spray painted on it. On top, the date the house was checked. To the left, the group that checked the house. To the right, the number of people found alive. Below, the number found dead. In the ninth Ward, there were some with numbers as high as 6 (in the bottom of the X) for a single home. In some horror stories, such as the tale about one nursing home whose workers abandoned it and left the residents behind to fend for themselves, the building bears in the bottom X a number in the 30s. 1,287 people died in New Orleans. Some are still missing. Finding bodies is still a possibility.

**"When I watched it on the news, my heart went out to those people," said University of Central Florida freshman Miranda Kearley, 19, who weathered Hurricane Ivan with her family outside Pensacola, Fla., in 2004. "I'll never forget the miles and miles of electrical trucks and all the people who had set up relief centers. That's what helped us get back on our feet."**

It was the least comfortable, yet most satisfying spring break I have ever had. We came to New Orleans with a mission. We gave up time, energy, and chances to goof off and relax by coming to a land of mold and shattered dreams. We came bearing a ray of hope. I think we came for a noble purpose, and we felt it; we lived it. It gave us the strength and will to wake up at ungodly early (for us) hours to go to work, unpaid, for a full day's worth of hard labor, to be rewarded with a cold showers upon our return and a sleeping bag on the wooden floor to rest our achy bodies. It felt good in a way completely unlike play.

This is what drives hope. This is what creates leaders in times of need, what leads them to do what it takes for the greater good, with little to no gain for themselves, save for the purpose for which they came.

To bring hope to a devastated community is rewarding beyond words. We made a difference, at least in one woman's life. In 5 days, with a team of 8 people, 3 crowbars, 4 trash bins, a wheel barrow, hammers, three shovels and a sledgehammer, we gutted Ms. Anna's entire house: walls, ceiling, insulation, interlocked wooden floor, tile, toilet, cast iron tub – everything but the frame and the roof. Our devotion and progress not only inspired us, but caught the attention of the Methodist Church Coordinator for the Eastern Storm Response Center. In Thomas' words, it was "INCREDIBLY AMAZING." We came without technical support and minimal supplies, but a lot of hope, and it made a difference. People we had never met recognized and appreciated our efforts to rebuild their city, and thanked us for it, even though they did not know us or have us working for them. We felt good. We didn't need fancy electronics, soft beds, beaches, and the like to do so. We had our work, the company of each other, and the knowledge that we served for a noble purpose. Likewise, we take pride in and respect those fighting so hard to keep the spirit of New Orleans alive. It is ladies like Ms. Anna, who had a will to fight on so strong that she worked with us every day, just as long, hauling things out from her backyard to the sidewalk. It is this inner strength that will save New Orleans.

Sadly, the future of New Orleans is still very unclear. One of the most unsettling things is that government presence is negligible, save for the occasional senatorial procession that drives through the neighborhoods, never bothering to take a step inside and see how bad it really is. While the budget for Iraq passes the \$100 billion mark, Katrina victims have yet to see more than \$12 billion of the \$98 billion allotted to them. That \$12 billion was used six months ago. FEMA cannot work, because it doesn't have the money to fund its cleanup. Of the workers present here in New Orleans, most are volunteers. Many are college students also working with Alternative Spring Break. Far from recovery, New Orleans remains as it was: ruined.

As difficult as the situation may be, it gets harder when one realizes that not only do the poorer home owners have little to no flood insurance (which would at most pay them a pittance in compensation) and no money to pay to gut and clean their houses of toxic muck and mold—even when they finally reach the stage of being ready to rebuild, they may never be able to commence, because new flood maps that have yet to be released will require them to raise their homes by as much as 20 feet from where they currently stand. Many neighborhoods are under watch – they may not be rebuilt if the neighborhood does not recover. Under so much uncertainty and so little support, it is no wonder that there is such hopelessness here. It is oppressive to the will to fight on. The survivors here are incredible examples of the enduring courage of the human spirit... and victims of shameful neglect by the most powerful government on earth.

We came expecting to rebuild, but there was no such thing. New Orleans expects to recover in 15-30 years at the current rate. It will be a long time before they even begin building again, and yet we are but one small team, demolishing one house, out of a neighborhood of hundreds, of a community of thousands. There are not enough people. There is not enough support. So many things have gone so terribly wrong. When we leave, the residents merely request one thing: that we share their stories, so that America will not forget about them.

Bryan Lin  
University of Central Florida  
Alternative Spring Break Volunteer, Metairie, Louisiana

[Editor's note: Bryan Lin is a National Merit Scholar and engineering major at the Burnett Honors College at UCF. A two-time North American Open (Chess) Champion and Speed Chess Champion, Bryan was the 2004 recipient of the (Challenger Commander) Dick Scobee Scholarship awarded each year to one outstanding gifted male and female high school student.]

**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](mailto:elin@ingenious.com). Letters to the Editor are also welcome. Thank you.

**10. Helpful Info and articles of Interest =====**

**\*\*\*HELP YOUR ASSOCIATION AND HELP YOUR COMMUNITY! \*\*\***

**If you have been the recipient of a Welcome Gift Basket upon the purchase of your new home, one of the gift included is from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice. Their gift is an opportunity to make a donation of \$250 to a local non-profit organization. The grant will be made in your name at NO cost to you. Please consider GCAA to be your donation recipient. Even if you have not acquired a new home, please call the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice at 941-486-4600 and ask to make your grant recommendation today! Ask that GCAA be added to the list of eligible recipients! Thank you.**

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If you need directory assistance, and dial 411, you'll be charged \$1 or more Instead dial 1-800-FREE-411 or (800-373-3411) and receive the info you need, **FREE of charge**. I tried this on 4/22/06 and there wasn't even an ad that I had to listen to, though this may change in the future

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I rarely, if ever, endorse a travel agency. However, I have consistently gotten such good service (prompt response, best connection and lowest fare) from the following for international travel that I feel they have earned it:

Aero Express Ltd.  
Grace Ting (email: [gting529@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gting529@sbcglobal.net))  
1499 Bayshore Hwy, Suite 237

Burlingame, CA 94010  
Tel: 650-692-8813  
Fax: 650-692-8815

Mention GCAA and receive a discount

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**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 hinder my efficiency. 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](mailto:elin@ingenious.com)), Dr. Kevin Hu ([cunkuohu@yahoo.com](mailto:cunkuohu@yahoo.com)) and Ms. Helen Pollak ([hwpollak@comcast.net](mailto:hwpollak@comcast.net)) promptly via email.

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**Little playmates wanted!** You are welcome to join a toddler/pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten-age playgroup on the second Saturday of every month, at Colonial Oaks Park in Sarasota. We meet at 10:30 am and stay until 11:30/noon. Moms and dads are both welcome. For more information contact Ellen Gaulke (of the FCC group) at 941-400-6463 or via email: [thegaulkes@yahoo.com](mailto:thegaulkes@yahoo.com)

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**11. For Sale/Wanted** =====

**House for Sale by owner:** On Country Place Lane (off Beneva between Proctor & Clark); 2633 SF under central air; 3800 SF under roof which includes 3-car garage; 3/3; Very large MBR & bath suite 15x44 w/ 4 closets; newly remodeled kitchen 10x21 w/16 pr + triple pantry cabinets; LR 18x19; DR 11x15; Skylighted atrium: FR 15x20; wet-bar; fireplace; Dual-zone A/C; security system, 6 yr old roof; water filter; solar heated pool; screened front porch; 9 fruit trees; Asking 495K; Pat Amsel 941-924-4344.

**Live-in Nanny Wanted**

To take care of one daughter under 2. Wage will be \$1300-\$1500 per month live-in including Room and Board. Light household work. Live in Apollo Beach, FL. Call 941-755-9060 or send e-mail to: [jasperlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:jasperlaw@yahoo.com)

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**ENGLISH TEACHERS WANTED (TWO)** for the Xiamen Foreign Language School (located in the city of Xiamen in southern China). They offer salary of RMB3000 a month, roundtrip airfare plus airfare for two vacations a year. Please contact Duane Finger ([gduanef@aol.com](mailto:gduanef@aol.com))

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