

Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCAA) Newsletter Nov-Dec Issue 2007 (release date Nov 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.

Urgent Notice:

Sunday Social Planning Meeting

Time: 4:30PM on November 4

Location: Grand China Buffet, 3969 Cattlemen Road, Sarasota

On November 4, a special planning meeting will be held at 4:30PM, one hour before our November social, specifically for the purpose of **CNY08 & Welcome Chinese Acrobatic Troupe** planning.

A Chinese Acrobatic Troupe will arrive from China November 21 for a new performance in the Ringling Brother's Circus Show. This is a GREAT opportunity not only for GCAA to host the Troupe, it is also a chance to gain favorable and positive PR for the Chinese community. Let us brain storm and see how we can maximize this.

As for 08 CNY, there is a lot of preparation ahead and opportunities for you to provide valuable input and make a positive difference. We need ideas and we need volunteers. So, please, step forward and volunteer to serve. We'd all be better for it. Thank you!

Please come to the Sunday planning meeting at 4:30 at Grand China Buffet. You do NOT have to dine there if you only wish to attend the meeting or socialize.

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MANDARIN TRANSLATOR OPPORTUNITY!!!

A unique opportunity is available for a Mandarin/English translator in Tampa, FL for approximately 2 ½ - 3 weeks. This is offered by Feld Entertainment Inc, better known as Ringling Brother's Circus.

A Chinese Acrobatic Troupe of approximately 27 people (adults & children) will arrive from China November 21st and begin training for a new performance in the Ringling Brother's Circus Show. The training will take place at the Tampa Fairgrounds.

INFORMATION:

- * Mandarin/English Translator.
- * Probably 7 days a week approximately 8+ hours a day.
- * Person must be available November 21 to meet the Troupe at the Tampa airport when they arrive from China.
- * This is a paid position; you can submit a fair quote for your services.

ONLY REASONABLE QUOTE'S WILL BE CONSIDERED.

To apply or for additional information contact:

Cherise Demitrova at: cdimitrova@feldinc.com or 941-721-1224

Laurie St. Denis at: Lbstdenis@msn.com

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1. Message from the Chairman

Dear members and friends of GCAA,

With the holiday season approaching, I wish to express on behalf of Dr. Xueji Zhang, all GCAA volunteers, officers and members of the Board of Directors our warm best wishes for a happy holiday season.

As we give thanks for all that we do have, let's reflect on the volunteerism that is going on all around us that makes our community a better and more humanistic one in which to live. From Habit for Humanity to local food banks, from PBS (Public TV) to Sarasota Sister Cities Association, many volunteers are giving their time and skills to make a positive difference.

And of course, without the dedication and service spirit of all those who serve GCAA, our Association could not have become what it is today. Volunteerism nurtures growth both personally and professionally and sets a good example for our children.

Elie Wiesel said,
"The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.
The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference.
The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference.
And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference."

Let's all do our part to contribute and make our world a better place.

The superb new layout and convenient navigation of this issue of newsletter marks the beginning of many more contributions to come from our new Editor, Libin Huang. Our hearty welcome and sincere thanks to Libin!

If you haven't yet paid your membership dues please do so now so your GCAA teams can have the resources to serve you better. We thank you for keeping your membership current and assure you that your investment is creating value for our organization and community. Please refer new potential members to Co-Director of Membership Jian Wang at jian@doctorhan.com or Linda Fung at elfunkkee@verizon.net.

Each of you can enrich and benefit our Association. Please come forth and enjoy the fulfillment that comes from helping your fellow beings. No prior experience or skill needed. Just your smile and a willing heart.

Lastly, if you are not yet a member of 80-20 Initiative, please visit www.80-20initiative.net. This national organization is working hard for Asian American civil rights and deserves your strong support. Invest in your future and become a part of history! Thank you

Ed

Dr. Edward Lin

Success is not counted by how high you have climbed but by how many you brought with you.
Wil Rose

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Thoughts worthy of reflection

Humanity must take a moment each day to reflect on the need for harmony in the world and how harmony can be achieved. It is only when we **stop what we are doing** and reflect on the solution (instead of the problem) that we will begin to understand, only then will change occur. And if we don't, and continue along the road of fundamentalism, greed, self satisfaction, apathy, and nationalism, our self-destruction will continue. Take courage today and start making that change happen in the world. Because the human race will only survive if we each, in our own individual way, begin the process and muster the courage within us to action.

Robert Blinch-Edwards

To see what is right and not to do it, is want of courage.

Confucius Analects

To dare is to lose one's footing momentarily. To not dare is to lose oneself.

Soren Kierkegaard

When even one American -- who has done nothing wrong -- is forced by fear to shut his mind and close his mouth, then all Americans are in peril.

Harry S. Truman (1884-1972), 33rd US President August 14, 1951

Source: Address at the Dedication of the New Washington Headquarters of the American Legion

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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.

2. Programs Committee Report

Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration 2007

Mid-Autumn Festival 2007 Celebration was a huge success! There are about 200 members attended the party despite threatening rains. Everyone brought potluck dishes to share, **Grand buffet** and **Wal-Mart SuperCenter** in Osprey also generously sponsored food and beverages to the party. All the adults and kids had a great time. Games played included piñata breaking, three-legged race and ping pong. Most of the children received books and balloons as gifts of the festival. This year's raffle drawing also was an intense fun moment.

The event would not have been possible without the extraordinary efforts of May Thomas , Linda Fung, Evert Brakkee, Ian Kempner, Jason Liu, Jason Guan, and Barry Zhang. A big thank you to the following: Bin Hua and Jue Zhao, Yuanhang Xu and Baixia Ying, Wei Qinghong and Zhang Zhigang, Wang Ye, Maggie Ding, Kevin Hu, Jinbo Yin, Marti & Gregg Rudick and all officers and their families. We thank all of our volunteers for all their tireless efforts.

Also we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Ruanjin Zhao, who donated \$1000 to GCAA, Dr. Edward Lin, who donated unique fruit trees for the raffle prizes, Jinbo Yin and Jason Liu, who loaned their ping pong tables to GCAA, and Wong Kai Imports, who supplied the moon cakes—the classic dessert treat for MAF---at a discounted price!

Here is an article of GCAA's MAF picnic that appeared in Sarasota Herald Tribune:
<http://heraldtribune.com/article/20070925/COMMUNITY/709250708/1471>

For more pictures of the picnic please go to:
<http://spotted.heraldtribune.com/pages/gallery.php?gallery=311082>

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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 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.

3. Schedule of GCAA Activities

Chinese New Year (CNY) Celebration

GCAA will hold the 2007 CNY Party at Venice Community Center from **2 to 5 pm on Feb. 10, 2008**. We are going to have lots of games and professional performances. Everybody is welcomed! More detail information will be available in the next issue of GCAA Newsletter. Comments and suggestions will be greatly appreciated. We are expecting to have more people to participate, and we need lots of **volunteers** to make this event successful. Please contact with Dr. Kuang at xkuang1@lsu.edu if you have any suggestion, or you would like to help as a volunteer.

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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

November 17

Made for domestic audiences, both films provide Americans a rare glimpse of the personal struggles of individuals in China during the 70s and early 80s.

1:30

Troubled Laughter 苦惱人的笑 (kunao ren de xiao / Distressed people's laughter)

Directors: Yan Yanjin and Deng Yimin, 1979. 92 min.

Set in the winter of 1975, Troubled Laughter depicts the lives and fates of Chinese intellectuals in the last years of the Cultural Revolution. Fu Bin, a newspaper journalist and an honest man, is instructed by the Party to write a false version of events he witnessed. He struggles with his

conscience – and his wife – about what course of action to take. This film is in the genre of “scar literature” (伤痕 shanghen wenxue) of the late ‘70s, which expressed the sufferings of cadres and intellectuals during the Cultural Revolution.

3:30

Army Nurse 女儿楼 (Nu'er lou / Women's building)

Directors, Hu Mei, Li Xiaojun, August 1 (八一 ba-yi) Film Studio, 1985. 95 min.

At the age of 15, in the middle of the Cultural Revolution, Xiaoyu is enlisted by her father as an army nurse, and assigned to an army hospital in a remote area, where she lives and works with a number of other young women each of whom has her own life story. Xiaoyu develops a passion for one of the patients, but is unable to express her feelings. For the next 15 years she conceals her private longings, and publicly pursues professional advancement through membership in the Communist Party.

December 8

Recent films by China's most recent“ Urban Generation” directors

1:30

Crazy Stone 疯狂的石头(Fengkuang de shitou / Craziess about a stone)

Directors Cheng Zhang and Ning Hao 2006, 106 min.

Fast paced Tarantinoesque dark comedy about several different thieves and their colleagues converging on the theft of a valuable jade protected by an ex-cop and his colleagues.

3:30:

TBA.

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 <http://www.rsad.edu/fileadmin/pdf/CampusMap.pdf> (although the building itself is marked #21).

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

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Monthly Social

Our monthly social is held at 5:30P on the first Sunday of each month. These are not official meetings, just an opportunity to meet other families who share or are interested in Chinese friendship, culture and heritage. If you plan to attend, please RSVP the number in your party to 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).

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GCAA basketball games

on Friday evenings

Location: Isles basketball court (outdoor, lighted)

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

Address: 5918 Benevento Dr., Sarasota, FL 34238

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

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

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4. Business Corner

The Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCAA) is very pleased to forge a closer relationship with the Small Business Council(SBC) of the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce to promote “good life, good business” in the region, leverage unique cultural differentiation, and exchange pertinent information for mutual benefit.

GCAA offers an invaluable talent pool consisting of executives, professors, researchers, doctors, engineers, successful business entrepreneurs, and individuals with creative ideas, experience and knowledge to promote small businesses locally and internationally.

This section is made available to facilitate the dialogue exchange between the Chinese Community and the SBC. The present and future business owners in our community can take advantage of this opportunity to get their suggestions heard, and/or express challenges they had in the region getting assistance to grow their business. In return, GCAA can contribute our intellectual and experienced resources to help our region create a solid economy standing in the global challenging market. Please feel free to send in your requests, questions or ideas to Libin Huang at libinh@linkingbt.com and your messages will be forwarded to SBC for prompt responses!!

Message from Small Business Council of Sarasota Chamber of Commerce

By Vicki Vega

Greetings!

It is with great enthusiasm that The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce invites an information exchange with The Gulf Coast Chinese-American Association. As an 87-year-old economic development organization with volunteer leadership and 2,200 businesses as members, we take great pride in working long and hard to create “Good Life. Good Business” for all in our great community.

It is my pleasure to work with three of our many Councils: Small Business, International Business and Education & Workforce Development. Moreover, it is my good fortune to have met one of

our newest Chamber members, Libin Huang, who has agreed to be Small Business Council liaison to our Asian community.

Today, business is embracing new alliances and ideas in a global marketplace. What better place to build a bridge of cultural understanding than our own community?

It is our hope that we will all benefit from Libin's funneling information of interest and value back and forth between our organizations and membership.

With warmest regards,

Vicki Vega

Vice President

Small Business Development & Innovation

The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce

vvega@sarasotachamber.com ph: (941)955-2508, ext. 244

www.sarasotachamber.com fax: (941) 366-5621

"The future belongs to a very different kind of mind." Daniel H. Pink, Harvard Business Review

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5. 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!

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6. 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

GCAA warmly welcomes new Treasurer, Caroline Wan YuHong, whose husband, Dr. Jason Guan GuoMing, is Co-Director of GCAA Sports Program. Caroline is taking over responsibilities for Nancy Cao, CPA. Below is the text of a recent letter of thanks and tribute from Dr. Edward Lin:

Dear Nancy

From the bottom of my heart, I wish to thank you for all the years you have served as GCAA Treasurer. Even though you moved away from the area almost 2 years ago and could easily have resigned from your responsibilities then, you continued to serve us even through some very busy and difficult times. Your sense of duty and loyalty led you to assume the responsibility of finding an able replacement and providing the transitional training. You have done a superb job and carried it through to completion. We owe you our sincere thanks.

Dear Caroline,

You and Jason have both answered the call to service and set an exemplary lead for all of us. We all have busy lives and yet some of us, like you, MAKE the time to make a difference. To me, you and Nancy symbolize three truths:

“If you want to get something done, give it to someone who is busy.”

“We always find time for what matters to us.” And,

“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others”

On behalf of GCAA, I salute you, our dedicated volunteers, officers and board members who share the belief that we must all unite in our fight against apathy, lead by example, and do our part to make a difference. Thank you.

Ed

On behalf of GCAA

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Spotlight on members and families

Mr. & Mrs. Alan D. & Helen Wu Pollak

Helen was born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan and came to U.S. in 1973. She attended Simmons College in Boston, MA. Upon graduation with a degree in art history and mass communication, she worked in Washington D.C. for a lobbying firm and met Alan. They married in 1980 and moved to Chicago, Alan's hometown. Helen worked part time with the Chicago Business Review, while Alan started his own health and life insurance agency. Their son, Michael was born in 1982, and daughter, Rachel, in 1987. Since GCAA's inception, Helen has served as its able and diligent secretary. She was recognized annually for her outstanding volunteer spirit and service

Michael, graduated in '05 from University of Pennsylvania, Phi Beta Kappa, in architecture. He is in graduate school at Cornell University. Rachel is a sophomore at University of Central Florida, studying business marketing and psychology. She has been on the Dean's List and President's Honor Roll. Helen's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wu, also reside in Sarasota.

In 1997 the Pollaks moved to Sarasota. Both Alan and Helen are licensed insurance agents at Alan D. Pollak & Associates, Inc., with clients in MI, WI, PA, DE, VA GA, SC, AZ, in addition to FL and IL. They specialize in health and life insurance, long term care, disability insurance and annuities. They serve their clients well by being their advocate, often through negotiations on behalf of their clients with the insurance companies and providers. Give them a call at (941) 929-9299. You'll be glad you did!

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May Thomas

May was born in Taipei, Taiwan. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from University of Chinese Culture, and met her husband Bill Thomas in Taipei, while he was working for Texas Instruments as an Environmental Engineer. May came to US with Bill on Dec 20, 1980 and they lived in Dallas, TX until May 2, 1985, when they moved to Sarasota, FL. Sadly, Bill passed away on July 20, 2005.

Their only son, Robert, is actively serving in the Army. He finished his basic training and Army Infantry Training (A.I.T) and is leaving to be stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y. Robert makes May very proud because Army Infantry is the most difficult training camp for the Army. He completed the whole training plus qualified as a level one ground fighting instructor, and will be going to Mountain Warfare School at Fort Drum.

May has worked at Sarasota Sheriff Office for the past 14 years. She was a correctional deputy in the county jail for 6 years. After passing the Florida State test and receiving the Law Enforcement Certification, she transferred to Court Service Section as a Bailiff. May loves her job and volunteers translation assistance in cases before the court. Along with Wei Qinghong, May Jang, and Sean Kuang, May recently helped to resolve code infraction violations and fines in the thousands of dollars for a Chinese woman who did not understand English. Volunteerism and public service is obviously in May's blood: She is also a fantastic hardworking volunteer in GCAA! We are thankful to have her as a member.

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Carlos & Sara Malave

Carlos & Sara Malave are the proud, happy and very busy parents of three lovely girls from China. Their girls are MeiMei age 10, Elisa age 9, and Ivy (adopted just 6 months ago) age 3. Carlos and Sara met in Sarasota 17 years ago and have been living there ever since.

Carlos is very handy at just about everything. He is currently employed by Calvary Chapel of Sarasota, where he does the maintenance and lawn care. He was a sous chef for many years and was a landscape foreman in more recent years. He is very active at Calvary Chapel and is very interested in mission trips. He speaks fluent Spanish and that has been very helpful on mission trips to the Dominican Republic.

Sara has her own custom clothing business. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Fashion Institute in San Francisco, California in 1989. She currently does the alterations for the local sheriff and police departments. She is leader of two different ministries at Calvary Chapel of Sarasota. One is, Prayers and Squares, a prayer quilt ministry that offers comfort and prayer for those in special need, and the other is, Mom's in Touch, a prayer ministry that focuses on the school and the children.

The Malave's most wonderful accomplishment is the adoption of their three beautiful girls. They thank God for them everyday and are honored to be their parents. They are very grateful to be a part of GCAA and hope to become more active in it in the future.

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7. Upcoming events and attractions

National District Export Council Conference

*Hyatt Regency, Tampa, Florida.
November 7-9, 2007*

Engage in "The Great Debate: The Future of U.S. Trade."

Meet personally with Senior U.S. Department of Commerce Officers from the Western Hemisphere, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Israel, and Kuwait. Get up-to-date information on developing opportunities for U.S. business.

Hear high-profile speakers cover crucial trade topics:

- § Free trade agreements
- § Trade technology
- § Trading partners – China, the Americas, and others
- § Financial risk mitigation
- § Security, including counterfeiting and IPR

Featuring award-winning journalist Gene Randall as moderator, the debate will provide unique insight into the complexities of conducting global business.

"This conference is designed to update participants on current and future trade opportunities and issues, to galvanize trade efforts by establishing relationships, and to showcase services and products for exporters. It is about finding synergies, and working cohesively toward constantly expanding US exports." Conference Chair Charlotte Starfire

Register today at www.deconference.com

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ENHANCING THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

*Present by The Asia-American Chamber of Commerce
November 14, 2007 6:30pm-8:30pm*

Location: Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore, 2225 North Lois Avenue, Tampa, FL 33607

Description: Joint event by Asian American Chamber and Chinese Chamber of Commerce. A Panel discussion on the Report to President George W. Bush from the Presidents Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Join panelists Joseph Melookaran, Rudy Pamintuan, and Jimmy D. Lee for this event.

Agenda:

6:30-7:00 - Cocktails

7:00-7:30 - Introduction & Networking

7:30-8:30 - Panel Presentation by Commission

For more information or to register call (813) 905 5810 or visit <https://sbdc.usf.edu/calendareventregister.asp?eventid=103>

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8. Feature Articles and Reports

Siming delegation visit report

by Carolyn Bloomer

It's finally official! The City of Sarasota and the Siming District of Xiamen are now official Sister Cities!

Final papers were signed by the respective officials at a public ceremony on the evening of October 9 in the Federal Building in downtown Sarasota. Throughout their 3-day visit to Sarasota, the 6-person Siming delegation was constantly accompanied by GCAA representatives – in particular Jason Liu, Qinghong Wei, May Thomas, and Helen Wu Pollak.

The delegation arrived in Sarasota on the morning of October 8. After a tour of the city, they were hosted to a welcome luncheon by the City of Sarasota and Sarasota Sister Cities Association (SSCA). After the luncheon, the delegation walked to the Sister City Tree Walk on Bayfront Park, where each of Sarasota's sister cities is honored by a tree and a bronze plaque. There they viewed and took pictures of the new tree and plaque installed in honor of the relationship with Siming District. Next, the delegation was welcomed to Mote Marine by VP for Research Dr. Glen Shen, and his staff.

Monday evening, the GCAA Board hosted the delegation to a dinner at which, without the need for translators, conversation flowed freely, jokes were exchanged, and spontaneous singing – including extemporaneous duets – delighted everyone! Certainly a warm relationship was initiated here!

At Tuesday's breakfast, Sarasota Military Academy students greeted the delegation with student performances of a flute solo and a recitation of a poem by Li Bai. After breakfast SSCA officers oriented the Siming delegation to ways in which relationships can be developed between Sarasota and Siming. For the rest of the day, the delegation was hosted by the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, where potential for business relationships was discussed.

Tuesday evening brought the signing ceremony at the Federal Building, followed by a formal dinner at the University Club, located on the 12th floor of the Bank of America building, which gave a spectacular view of the city at night. The 13-course meal -- complete with a Chinese character menu and served 'family style' -- was designed to echo Chinese sensibilities, and was a great success with both Chinese and American diners.

Wednesday morning the delegation's breakfast was hosted by the Sarasota chapter of the US China People's Friendship Association (USCPFA), during which time exchange possibilities were discussed. After breakfast the delegates enjoyed a private tour of Ca'd Zan and the Ringling Museum. In the Ca'd Zan giftshop, in response to Italian music playing at the moment, SSCA VP Hope Byrnes and Siming delegate Lu Xiaohong broke into a spontaneous duet so beautiful that it absolutely electrified everyone present.

Following a luncheon at the Museum's Treviso Restaurant, Lu Xiaohong (Chair of the Siming District Chinese Women's Federation) met with the Women's Resource Center, while the rest of the delegation met with the Sarasota City Planning Department.

At 4:30 pm, the Siming delegation officially departed with farewells from the Mayor and the Sarasota Sister Cities Board.

Next Steps

We need members of GCAA to volunteer to assist with developing ideas for exchanges with Siming (Xiamen). At present, the Siming Committee of the SSCA, headed by Dr. Carolyn Bloomer and Qinghong Wei, consists of the following subcommittees:

- Visual Arts
- Business
- Education/Youth
- Scientific/Professional/Medical
- Urban Planning/Public Administration

- Technology Transfer / Joint Venture;
- Performing Arts
- Women / Family / Social Topics
- Sports
- Translation Team

Interested GCAA members should contact Carolyn Bloomer cmbloomer@comcast.net; and Qinghong Wei qhwei89@yahoo.com.

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Political Process and Collective Shame

By Amy Wong Mok

Vice President

80-20 Initiative Board

Recently I had a conversation with a friend who works on a college campus. We talked about the 2008 presidential election and the involvement of Asian Americans in this process, especially the young voters. She shook her head and shared her concerns about the negative impact on our community by the illegal political contribution of Mr. Norman Hsu to the Democratic Party. She has sensed some level of collective shame among the Asian American college students when this scandal is brought up. She is afraid that Asian American voters may not be as active and maybe overly cautious about making political contribution to both parties or to any particular candidate. Her observation worries me and here are the reasons.

The political process of election campaigning is an important means for us to achieve our vision for a better community. We cannot afford to diminish our involvement; unless we are willing to turn a blind eye to the injustices that we are fighting to eliminate.

We should not allow anybody to define all Asian Americans based on the misbehavior of one individual, even though he is an Asian American. Other people's definition of us should not become our reality. We know better and we are better.

It is very important for all of us to continue building our political strength. The future of our children depends on it. Please consider:

Get involved in the political debate and discussion at your precinct because your opinion and experience are just as important as others.

Get a seat to go to the state convention.

Get a seat to be a delegate to the national convention. Attend the public meetings when the candidates sympathetic to our cause come to your area.

Contribute your time and resources to candidates who are our friends. We can make a difference and each one of us counts.

Participate in the 80-20 Initiative at a level that you feel most comfortable. Upgrade the level of your membership.

Together we will increase the number of Asian American federal judicial appointments to represent fairly the Asian American population in adequate proportion. We should have 39 Asian American federal court judges. We now have only 6, a big gap to narrow down.

We must increase the number of Asian American executives in public and private establishments in compliance with Executive Order 11246 that was signed by President Johnson in 1965. This order is meant to ensure the number of minority and women in executive positions in colleges/universities, government agencies and private businesses. Asian Americans have been left out in the enforcement of EO11246, in violation of federal law.

I truly believe in the observation: "The worth of a community depends on how the children are treated." In a democratic society, we can ensure the fair and just treatment of our children through our political strength. The Norman Hsu affair is no reason for us to retreat. It is a reminder to us all about how much we want to be treated like all others. Nobody rises to low expectations. Let us keep our aim high so that children will surely rise above us.

Become a member of 80-20 Initiative today and please share your political experience with us.

Join 80-20. Using a credit card, visit <http://www.80-20initiative.net/membership/payment.asp> (easy to use) or <http://www.80-20initiative.net/membership/join.asp>

PERSONAL checks are payable to "80-20 PAC", mailed to:

Jing-Li Yu Treasurer

P.O. Box 527340 Flushing, NY 11352-7340 .

Please write down your E-MAIL address & PHONE no. on the BACK of the check. Thank you.

Solicitation for Articles and Reports

If you have any news or announcements of interest or pride and relevance to the GCAA, FCC and USCPFA, please send it to elin@ingenious.com or Ms. Libin Huang libinh@linkingbt.com. Letters to the Editor are also welcome. Thank you.

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9. Helpful Info and articles of Interest by Edward Lin

If your kids are in 11th grade this year, you'd want to ensure they are signed up to take the **PSAT in 11/07**. Exceptional scores on this test in November (NOT the SAT nor PSAT taken at any other time) plus a strong essay determines whether your child becomes a National Merit Scholar, the highest national award earned by the top 1% of graduating seniors. With this award, he or she is assured of a full merit-based scholarship (not dependent on financial need) at most universities across the nation. Some schools such as Pine View offers a review course (costs about \$300 and is filled within the first week of start of fall semester). Chances are other review courses are also available. Good luck!

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Book Review: The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century

Author: Thomas L. Friedman

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_World_is_Flat

The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century is a best-selling book by **Thomas L. Friedman** analyzing the progress of globalization with an emphasis on the early 21st century. Friedman derives his title from the expression "a flat playing field," denoting a competitive environment where both teams compete on equal terms (e.g., on an uneven playing field, one team would have the difficult task of running uphill while the other would have the easier task of running downhill). The book was first released in 2005, was later released as an "updated and expanded" edition in 2006, and yet again released with additional updates in 2007 as "further updated and expanded: Release 3.0."

Overview

On a journey to Bangalore, India, Friedman realized that globalization has changed core economic concepts. Due to this discovery, he suggests that the world is "flat" in the sense that the competitive playing fields between industrial and emerging market countries have been leveled. Friedman recounts many examples of companies based in India and China that, by providing labor from typists and call center operators to accountants and computer programmers, have become integral parts of complex global supply chains for such companies as Dell, AOL, and Microsoft.

Friedman discusses "ten flatteners" that, he says, have leveled the global playing field:

#1: 11/9/89: The fall of the Berlin Wall not only symbolized the end of the Cold war, it allowed people from other side of the Wall to join the economic mainstream; thus, argues Friedman, 11/9, not 9/11, marks the start of the 21st century.

#2: 8/9/95: The date of Netscape's initial public offering is Friedman's milestone for when the Internet broadened its audience from 'early adopters and geeks' who used the Web primarily as a communications medium to everyone from 5-year-olds to 85-year-olds.

#3: Workflow Software: This is the ability of machines to talk to other machines with no humans involved. Friedman believes his first three flatteners have become a "crude foundation of a whole new global platform for collaboration."

#4: Uploading: Open source software, blogs, and Wikipedia are among Friedman's examples of communities uploading and collaborating on online projects--"the most disruptive force of all."

#5: Outsourcing: This has allowed companies to split service and manufacturing activities into components, with each component performed in the most efficient, cost-effective way.

#6: Offshoring: This is the relocation of production, manufacturing, services or other business processes to another country that offers better competitive advantages (usually lower costs).

#7: Supply Chaining: Friedman compares the modern retail supply chain to a river, and points to Wal-Mart as the best example of a company using technology to streamline item sales, distribution, and shipping.

#8: Insourcing: Friedman uses United Parcel Service as a prime example for insourcing, in which Company A contracts with Company B for Company B's employees to do production, manufacturing, services or other business processes for Company A. For example, Toshiba has contracted with UPS to function as its repair and maintenance operation; UPS employees use UPS facilities to repair Toshiba computers for Toshiba's customers.

#9: Informing: Google, Yahoo! and MSN Search--particularly Google--are Friedman's examples; "Never before in the history of the planet have so many people--on their own--had the ability to find so much information about so many things and about so many other people," he writes.

#10: "The Steroids": Friedman identifies four 21st-century factors he metaphorically calls steroids. These intensify each of the previous nine flatteners--"digital, mobile, virtual, and personal,' as former HP CEO Carly Fiorina put it in her speeches."

In addition to the ten flatteners, Friedman also offers "the triple convergence," which has created a new, flatter global playing field.

Convergence I: Up until the year 2000 the ten flatteners were semi-independent from one another. However, around the year 2000, all the flatteners converged with one another. This convergence could be compared to complementary goods, in that each flattener enhanced the other flatteners; the more one flattener developed, the more leveled the global playing field became.

Convergence II: After the emergence of the ten flatteners, a new business model was required to succeed. Instead of collaborating vertically (the top-down method of collaboration, where innovation comes from the top), businesses needed to begin collaborating horizontally. Horizontalization means companies and people collaborate with other departments or companies to add value creation or innovation. Friedman's Convergence II occurs when horizontalization and the ten flatteners begin to reinforce each other.

Convergence III: After the fall of the Berlin Wall, countries that had followed the Soviet economic model--including India, China, Russia, and the nations of Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Central Asia--began to open up their economies to the world. When these new players converged with the rest of the globalized marketplace, they added new brain power to the whole playing field and enhanced horizontal collaboration across the globe. In turn, Convergence III is the most important force shaping politics and economics in the early 21st century.

The New Middle

The "new middle" refers to American jobs that cannot be "outsourced, automated, or digitized," including physician, surgeon, dentist, orthodontist, trial lawyer, pharmacist, and teacher. In the flat world of the 21st century, these professions offer Americans a high degree of job security.

The Unflat World

Friedman acknowledges there are some 3 billion people in places like rural India, rural China, and Africa who still live in an "unflattened" world.

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China Recognizes Dangers Caused by Three Gorges Dam

By SHAI OSTER The Wall Street Journal

September 27, 2007; Page A6

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119083065737640157.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

BEIJING -- In unusually frank language, Chinese officials publicly acknowledged "hidden dangers" at the massive Three Gorges Dam, including landslides, erosion and pollution that could lead to an environmental disaster if not quickly fixed.

"If no preventive measures are taken, the project could lead to catastrophe," the official Xinhua news agency said on its English-language newswire, paraphrasing experts speaking at a conference this week. As an indication of the government's sensitivity to the issue, that phrase wasn't included in all versions published by Xinhua.

The comments are among the first official acknowledgments of unexpected environmental problems triggered by the dam, one of the world's biggest man-made projects.

The dam was built to contain the ravaging annual floods of the Yangtze and to provide China's growing economy with a cleaner source of electricity, but it also became a sign of the costs of China's rapid development. From its inception, the dam has been the target of criticism for the forced relocation of more than one million residents, burial of important historical relics and its radical reshaping of the Yangtze River basin, among other issues. Early criticism of the dam was often harshly suppressed. Construction of the dam, which cost at least \$22 billion and was begun in 1994, still isn't complete.

The officials' remarks came at a meeting called to discuss the dam's impact. "We can by no means relax our vigilance against ecological and environmental security problems or profit from a fleeting economic boom at the cost of sacrificing the environment," said Wang Xiaofeng, director of the office of the Three Gorges Project Committee of the State Council, the administrative office in charge of building the dam, according to Xinhua.

Other experts at the meeting said the reservoir had triggered life-threatening landslides, and they warned that downstream riverbanks were being eroded. State media said the participants found the dam had a "notably adverse" impact on the 400-mile stretch of the reservoir. The vice mayor of Chongqing, a large city along the reservoir's banks, said the Three Gorges shores had collapsed in 91 places.

Mr. Wang said Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao had raised the issue of environmental problems at the dam during a meeting of China's cabinet earlier this year. Another official, Li Chunming, the vice governor of Hubei province, through which the Yangtze River flows, warned that water discharged from the dam was eroding protective downstream embankments. Scientists say the river is now flowing faster because silt that used to slow it down is trapped behind the dam. In places such as the village of Miaohe, the threat of landslides is so severe that villagers are being forced to relocate, as reported in a recent article in The Wall Street Journal on the dam's growing problems.

"The problems mentioned in The Wall Street Journal should merit adequate attention from all of us," said Mr. Wang of the council's project committee, according to Xinhua's English-language release.

There have been several recent landslides in the region, including one on June 28 that killed four villagers, according to a local-government Web site. Four other villagers remain missing.

All this comes as China grapples with a mounting water shortage. Across the country, millions of tons of raw sewage, industrial waste and fertilizer runoff have turned lakes into algae-covered cesspools. According to official statistics, more than half of China's major waterways are so polluted that fish are dying or water is unsafe for drinking or irrigation. More than 300 million people -- almost one-quarter of the population -- lack access to clean drinking water, the government says.

The government has been stepping up efforts to rein in the environmental toll of China's breakneck economic growth. Yesterday, China's cabinet approved a five-year plan laying out major goals and measures to tackle pollution. "China is suffering from increasing conflicts between economic and social development and constraints in resources and energy," the State Council said in a document, according to state media.

Also read the related articles:

China's Three Gorges Dam Under Fire

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1671000,00.html>

China admits to big problems from its big dam

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2003946698_dam13.html

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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.

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10. For Sale/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 \$279,900. Sarasota MLS Number: 361389; Manatee MLS Number: 562214. Please contact [Beth Barnett](mailto:Beth.Barnett) at 941-730-0130 or Henry Zhu at hexiangzhu@hotmail.com or 941-758-2051.

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

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11. The Funnies

Shared by Dr. Edward Lin

0-200 IN 6 SEC

Ed was in trouble. He forgot his wedding anniversary. His wife was really mad. She told him "Tomorrow morning, I expect to find a gift in the driveway that goes from 0 to 200 in 6 seconds, AND IT BETTER BE THERE."

The next morning, Ed got up early and left for work. When his wife woke up, she looked out the window, and sure enough, there was a medium-sized gift-wrapped box in the middle of the driveway.

Confused, the wife put on her robe, ran out to the driveway, and brought the box back into the house. She opened it and found a brand-new bathroom scale.

Funeral services for Ed have been scheduled for Friday.

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12. 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, Ms. Libin Huang libinh@linkingbt.com (248) 701-0878

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Co-Director, Cheyenne Wu cheyennewu1@yahoo.com, (941) 400-8540

Matters relating to membership and how to join

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

Matters relating to monthly socials

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