

# Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCAA) Newsletter

Issue Nov-Dec 2008 - Released on Nov 01, 2008

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

## Highlights of this issue

- n The United States Presidential Election is on November 4, 2008. Don't let your right to vote develop disuse atrophy. Exercise it for the candidate of your choice.
- n Read the Siming/Xiamen Relationship report by SSCA Siming City Director Dr. Carolyn Bloomer and learn more about the upcoming China Business Seminar in Mid-January. Volunteers needed!
- n NPR Podcast-inside workings leading to bailout. Read more under section 6.

## 1a. Message from the Chairman of GCAA

By Dr. Edward Lin

Dear members and friends,

Our principal editor for the past year, Ms. Libin Huang, has made many valuable contributions to our Newsletter for which we are very thankful. A hardworking and capable volunteer, Libin has also been instrumental in progress with our Siming-Sarasota Sister City activities. In the recent past, Libin has requested to relinquish her co-editorship position, in anticipation of spending increasingly more time on projects in China in 2009. It is with great pleasure that I announce that Ms. Pamela Ho Robbins has agreed to join the editorial staff as co-editor and moreover, Libin has agreed to stay on with me to support and assist Pamela. A family capsule about Pamela can be found under Kudos in this Newsletter. Thank you, Pamela and Libin for your service to our community.

In just a few days, we will choose a new President to lead our nation out of our current quagmire of economic recession, two unfinished wars and loss of international standing and leadership. These problems will severely challenge and test the very best intellect, moral fiber, altruistic spirit and leadership our presidential candidates have to offer. Our duty as American citizens is to be as informed and knowledgeable as possible about the facts—the candidates, their positions and record—and then cast our vote. Our collective future depends on each and every one of us to do our homework and to make the best-informed decision as to whom to vote. EVERY vote makes a difference!

In the course of a campaign, truth is the most frequent casualty. To find out the facts, I urge you to visit [www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org) which is a non-partisan, public service organization that grew out of the Annenberg Foundation at the University of Pennsylvania. They debunk political myths and lies.

What does this election year mean for Asian Americans? 80-20 Initiative, the largest Asian American PAC working for equal opportunity and justice has endorsed Senator Obama. 80-20 reached this considered decision in August this year after a lengthy effort to engage in dialog with all the presidential candidates of both parties. On the Democratic side, all candidates, except for Dennis Kucinich, committed early on in writing to enforce Executive Order 11246 (which would grant Asian Americans equal opportunity at the work place) and to appoint more Asian Americans to the federal

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## Pearls About life

### Thoughts About Dreams

Above all, dreams are realized by getting up in the morning and inching a little bit closer, and closer.

*Robert Blinch-Edwards*

You either work to achieve your own dreams or you work to achieve someone else's dreams.

*Author unknown*

A man is not old until regrets take the place

judiciary. On the Republican side, not a single one of the candidates have responded. Through several Republican Senators, Congressman and major Asian American donors to the McCain campaign, 80-20 made its most persistent, near two-year effort to engage Senator McCain, regrettably without success.

Although EO11246 has been enforced since 1965 for African Americans, Hispanics and women with dramatic notable results, it has not been enforced for Asian Americans. According to Dept of Labor and EEOC statistics, Asian Americans, in spite of the highest level of education, remain the most under-represented minority group in upper management in civil service, academia and private industry. According to EEOC, they are also the least likely to file grievances. Elaine Chao, our Labor Secretary and wife of Republican minority whip Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, has proposed that the Dept of Labor stop gathering data on minority employment. Without data, there would no longer be accountability.

A new President brings into the government about 3,000 of his appointees, out of which only 600 are subject to congressional approval. We have all seen how in the current administration, political appointees (notably in the Justice Dept) slavishly subvert the constitution in order to advance private agendas. Because power corrupts, our government will only be as good as its leaders. Remember that, as you try to decide who is best fit to lead our nation in these trying times.

Lastly, did you know that the two top positions in a Senatorial office are the Chief of Staff followed by the Legislative Director? Through mid-2008, Pete Rouse (whose mother is a Japanese American) and Chris Lu (a Chinese American and Obama's Harvard Law schoolmate) filled those two top positions. Rouse has left his position to become a Senior Advisor and Lu is now Chief of Staff. Those of you who can read Chinese may be interested in the following links:

[http://www.worldjournal.com/wj-sf-news.php?nt\\_seq\\_id=1795830](http://www.worldjournal.com/wj-sf-news.php?nt_seq_id=1795830)

[http://www.worldjournal.com/pr/USselection/us\\_news.php?nt\\_seq\\_id=1795774&sc\\_seq\\_id=4609](http://www.worldjournal.com/pr/USselection/us_news.php?nt_seq_id=1795774&sc_seq_id=4609)

<http://www.singtaousa.com/103008/sf01.php>

Please take the time to become informed about the election and vote! Also join in the GCAA Volunteers' Meeting, an hour ahead of our monthly social, this Sunday at Grand China Buffet. Planning for Chinese New Year is underway and we need volunteers. You and your Association need each other. Please come and make a difference.

Thank you, and best regards,

Ed

### 1b. Interested in working for the federal government?

TriCaucus Staff Association Call for Resumes  
Wednesday, October 29, 2008

The Congressional Asian Pacific American Staff Association (CAPASA), Congressional Black Associates (CBA) and Congressional Hispanic Staff Association, collectively the TriCaucus Staff Association, are pleased to announce our call for resumes to be included in the 2008 TriCaucus Staff Association Resume Book.

The TriCaucus staff organizations are working together to increase diversity by encouraging the recruitment, retention and promotion of people of color in staff positions throughout Capitol Hill and the Executive Branch. As we move towards the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress and a new Administration, we will present new Members, leadership,

of dreams.  
*John Barrymore*

Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.  
*Mark Twain*

### 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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### 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) or Mrs. Libin Huang [libinh@linkingbt.com](mailto:libinh@linkingbt.com) or Pamela Ho Robbins [pamelaho@att.net](mailto:pamelaho@att.net) – 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

committees and federal agencies with resumes of candidates from our communities.

Please carefully read the following directions to submit your resume into the TriCaucus Staff Association Resume Book:

- Resumes must be submitted to [tricaucusresumebook@gmail.com](mailto:tricaucusresumebook@gmail.com) by Friday, November 7, 2008 at NOON.
- For Congressional positions, in the subject heading of the email please include your full name followed by the position you are seeking.

*Example:* Subject: Samantha Johnson: Legislative Director

Please use the following titles to classify the position you are seeking:

- o Chief of Staff
- o Committee – Professional Staff
- o Committee – Counsel
- o Legislative Director
- o Legislative Assistant
- o Press
- o Scheduling
- o Legislative Correspondent
- o Staff Assistant

- For Executive Branch positions, in the subject heading of the email please include your full name followed by “Executive Branch” or include the Agency you wish to work for.

*Examples:* Subject: Samantha Johnson: Executive Branch  
Subject: Samantha Johnson: State Department

- If you are considering more than one position, please state your top choice (like the examples above) in the subject heading and list your preferences in order of priority in the body of the email.

Please note the following:

- The TriCaucus Staff Association’s role is limited to the distribution of submitted resumes through the TriCaucus Resume Book. The TriCaucus Staff Association makes no warranty with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the resumes.
- The TriCaucus Staff Association will send the TriCaucus Staff Association Resume Book to new Members of Congress, Committees, Leadership Offices, the Executive Branch transition team and also to other Congressional Member Offices and administrative offices in Congress (CAO, Clerks Office, Sergeant at Arms, etc.) upon request of such offices.
- The TriCaucus Staff Association will request that employers not release the information in the TriCaucus Staff Association Resume Book except for employment related purposes.

We look forward to your participation in this effort! Please send an email to [tricaucusresumebook@gmail.com](mailto:tricaucusresumebook@gmail.com) with any questions.

Sincerely,

TriCaucus Staff Association  
CAPASA, CBA and CHSA

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](mailto: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.

Classified Ads

Open Position

Assistant Director of Development – Scholarships

Department: [Development Central - Scholarships](#)

Campus: [Tampa](#)

Position Number: 3262

Date Posted: 09/25/2008

Deadline Date: Open until Filled

Annual Salary: \$45,000 - negotiable

Duties: Position builds relationships with university's various constituents; identifies, cultivates, and solicits prospects and closes private gifts on behalf of the university to advance the university's mission and goals. This position will primarily focus on raising funds for diversity scholarship initiatives in the \$10,000 - \$99,999 range; however, general scholarship funds and/or gifts at a higher range can be secured.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree and three years of experience in development or related experience. Related experience may include, but is not limited to, alumni relations, sales, marketing, student recruiting, or community relations.

Victoria Tung | Executive Director | [Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus](#)  
| Congressman Michael M. Honda  
1713 Longworth HOB | Washington, D.C. 20515 | (w) 202-225-2631 | (f) 202-225-2699

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## 2. Program Committee Reports

### [Siming / Xiamen Relationship](#)

*By Dr. Carolyn Bloomer*

The Sister City relationship between Sarasota and the Siming District of Xiamen has received a huge boost with the travel to Xiamen of Special Envoy Irene Leung during the month of October. Ms. Leung spent five days in Xiamen, during which time she explored business and commercial potential between Xiamen and Sarasota (as well as a wide variety of educational, artistic, sports, and botanical venues).

In addition, we have accepted two applicants from Xiamen to attend an Arts Center Sarasota workshop February 6<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup>. We will need to find host housing for these two artists during their stay.

#### Cliff Roles Radio Show Series:

From October to December, the Cliff Roles Radio Show on 1220 AM WSRQ, will profile Sarasota Sister Cities Association and its seven "twin" cities. In late November Dr. Carolyn Bloomer, City Director for Siming, and Ms. Irene Leung, Special Envoy to Xiamen, will be Mr. Roles' guests to discuss the sister city relationship. They will also present plans for the cultural and business exchange between Sarasota and Xiamen; and the China Business Seminar planned for mid-January.

#### China Business Seminar: Mid-January 2009

In mid-January 2009, the Siming Business Subcommittee, the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce and the International Development Council will host a China Business Seminar. This exciting event, designed for Sarasota small businesses, will include informative presentations from international business development organizations; local entrepreneurs successfully dealing with China; and a summary report of Ms. Irene Leung's recent China trip to our Sister City of Xiamen.

Please mark your calendar and tune in for further information about this informative show!

#### Call for Volunteers

The Siming Committee needs volunteers to help with various aspects of planning the Chinese Business Seminar and other events. Please email, Carolyn Bloomer at [cbloomer@ringling.edu](mailto:cbloomer@ringling.edu) or Libin Huang at [libinh@linkingbt.com](mailto:libinh@linkingbt.com) for more information.

We look forward to your active participation in this event.

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## 3. Schedule of GCAA activities:

### [Saturday double feature Chinese film series](#)

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

Preferred Qualifications: Master's degree and a minimum of three years experience in development, preferably in an institution of higher education or a not-for-profit organization. Knowledge and understanding of the principles of fundraising and the significant role of the fundraising unit within a major research university. Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) preferred but not required. Send cover letter & resume to: Renee Juergens • [rjuergen@admin.usf.edu](mailto:rjuergen@admin.usf.edu)

or  
University of South Florida  
Attn: Renee Juergens  
4202 E. Fowler Avenue, ALC 100

\*\*\*\*\*

#### [Chinese Classes](#)

Conversation Mandarin taught by native speaker Pamela Ho Robbins. New classes begin in January at East-West College. For more information contact Pam at: [pamelaho@att.net](mailto:pamelaho@att.net)

### Recommended Services

#### [Certified Inspection for Hurricane-Resistant Home Discount](#)

If you have purchased a hurricane resistant home or made structural improvements to your home (hurricane shutters and straps, reinforced trusses, etc.) to render it hurricane resistant, you may be entitled to substantial discounts from your homeowner's insurance carrier. However, a written inspection report by a My-Safe-Florida-Home-certified home inspector, architect, engineer or general building contractor is required. Our GCAA member and FCC parent, Jamie Milholland is one of a few My-Safe-Florida-Home-certified home inspectors in our area. Dr. Lin saved a significant amount on his homeowner's insurance and recommends you look into whether or not you may qualify for similar savings. Give Jamie a call at 941-362-4862.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### [Stitches](#)

Looking a good local seamstress for all your alteration needs, or looking for some embroidery work to be done? Well, look no further! Sara Malave, a FCC parent and magna cum laude graduate of Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising can help. Stitches is a home owned business that has been in operation since 1998. She also offers sewing camps for children at

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](mailto:cbloomer@Ringling.edu)

November 15

Two modern classics with comparable plots but diametrically opposed ideological messages.

1:30

Red Detachment of Women 红色娘子军 *Hongse niangzi jun*

Director, Xie Jin, 1961. 120 min.

Modern revolutionary classic (story was also one of the Eight Model Operas during the Cultural Revolution) by one of China's most popular and durable directors. In 1930-31 on Hainan Island in southern China: with the help of a Communist army officer in disguise, a slave girl escapes her feudal, villainous master, joins the Red Army, and liberates the local village.

4:00 pm

Yellow Earth 黄土地 *Huang tudi*

Director, Chen Kaige 1984, 89 min.

The first of China's "Fifth Generation" films to receive international attention. Set in 1939 in an 'unliberated' Uigher village near the Yellow River in barren Shaanxi province, the film tells the story of a Red Army officer sent to collect folk melodies from the peasants, which will be used to create Army marching songs. A young woman, inspired by his descriptions of the freedom young women enjoy under the Communists, determines to run away and join the Army – with disastrous results. As well as being an artistic masterpiece, the film is a devastating critique of Mao's project to impart revolutionary consciousness to the peasantry

December 6

Important recent Chinese films, each commenting in quite a different way on the fabric of Chinese life as lived and experienced by "the urban generation".

1:30 pm

The World 液宴 (*Ye yan*)

Director, Jia Zhangke, 2006 134 min.

China's premier 'Sixth Generation' director gives us an allegorical 'behind the scenes' story of young workers at "The World", a theme park on Beijing's periphery that features to-scale representations of famous foreign landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower and the Leaning Tower of Pisa – a glittering and fun-filled experience for visitors, but dull, lonely, and disillusioning for those who work there

4:00 pm

PK.com.CN PK.COM.CN

Director, Xiao Jiang (女), 2008. 105 min.

Guaranteed you've never seen a Chinese film like this one! One of China's few women directors brings us an energetic, surreal, non-linear narrative interspersed with montages and animation sequences. The story is of a young, repressed medical doctor who really wants to be an artist, who is dominated by his mother and fiancé, and who misses his best buddy and old girlfriend from his college days.

NEW Location: All films will be screened on the campus of Ringling College of Art and Design in Goldstein 5, which has been relocated to Area 26 on the NEW campus map available on line at <http://www.ringling.edu/fileadmin/pdf/CampusMap.pdf> Goldstein 5 is the southernmost of the four buildings that comprise Area 26. Enter

various times throughout the year. Call 366-4406 with any questions or for an appointment.

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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](mailto:toni.liang@att.net)

For sale

CHINESE FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES FOR SALE:

GCAA member Lolly Baerveldt has closed her store, China Trade, after more than 20 years. Persons interested in purchasing items remaining in her warehouse, should contact Lolly at [lollyb2310@comcast.net](mailto:lollyb2310@comcast.net).

HOUSE FOR SALE Lovely freshly painted Bruce Williams Laurel Hill pool home features 2 bedrooms and a large den which could easily be converted to a 3rd bedroom. 1673 SF under central air, 2241 SF under roof. Home has extensive upgrades to include a waterfall pool with 6 ft. private fence, security system, hurricane film windows, built-in surround sound. Lanai is extended and home is located near shopping, hospital, entertainment and excellent schools! Ask \$269,900 or lease at \$1400/month. Sarasota MLS Number: 361389; Manatee MLS Number: 562214. Please contact Henry Zhu at <mailto:hexiangzhu@hotmail.com> or 941-907-9178.

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FOR SALE: 17" Dell Color Monitor \$25  
HP OfficeJet G85 Multi-tasking photo quality color/ B&W network printer, scanner, fax, and copier. \$130  
Call Sue 966-0690

\*\*\*\*\*

Who to contact about what

General info and past issues of Newsletters:

via Pappy Saunders Way off US 41 (which is one street south of MLK Way if coming from the north and one street north of Old Bradenton Rd if coming from the south). Ample Parking is available. For more information feel free to contact Dr. Bloomer at cbloomer@ringling.edu, or phone 351-0995.

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## Monthly Social

Our monthly social is held at 5:30P on the first Sunday of each month. These are not official meetings, just an opportunity to meet other families who share or are interested in Chinese friendship, culture and heritage. If you plan to attend, please RSVP the number in your party to Irene Leung at [irenel@post.com](mailto:irenel@post.com) by Friday so the restaurant can plan space and waiters accordingly. A discount is extended to all attendees.

When a major program is approaching (such as Chinese New Year), the Programs Committee and other volunteers often meet earlier, at 4:30PM, to discuss planning matters. Please join them and lend a hand. This is YOUR association and it can become better with you being an active part of it. Thank you.

For 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).

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## Registration now open for the GCAA Table Tennis Tournament III

Location: Colonial Oaks Park Gym  
5300 Colonial Oaks Blvd  
Sarasota, FL 34232

Time: 2:00-6:00 PM, Nov 23 (Sunday).

Fee: FREE for GCAA member (Donations welcomed to help cover overhead costs)

\$5.00 for the members of GCAA sister associations.

Prize(s): GCAA Champion Trophies for each Champion  
**(keep for one year until next Tournament and have the trophy forever if winning the Champion three times in a row).**

Contacts: Guoming Guan -- [guanguoming@gmail.com](mailto:guanguoming@gmail.com) (or) 941-379-4180  
Jason Liu, [liu5051@hotmail.com](mailto:liu5051@hotmail.com) (or) 941-320-3814.

## Registration Form:

Please email to the above persons the following needed info:

[www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org](http://www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org) for updates

Info and articles to be included in upcoming issues of Newsletter:

Editor, Mrs. Libin Huang [libinh@linkingbt.com](mailto:libinh@linkingbt.com) (248) 701-0878

Co-editor, Pamela Ho Robbins  
[pamelaho@att.net](mailto:pamelaho@att.net)

Matters relating to GCAA Programs:  
Co-Director, Dr. Sean Kuang, [xkuang1@isu.edu](mailto:xkuang1@isu.edu), 941-538-8525

Co-Director, June Shi, [floridajune@gmail.com](mailto:floridajune@gmail.com)

Matters relating to membership and how to join Co-Director of Membership, Jian Wang  
[jian@doctorhan.com](mailto:jian@doctorhan.com) 941-924-2278

Co-Director of Membership, Linda Fung  
[elfunkkee@verizon.net](mailto:elfunkkee@verizon.net); 941 918-8505

Matters relating to monthly socials  
Irene Leung, Secretary [irenel@post.com](mailto:irenel@post.com) , 646-251-7714

Matters relating to sports programs  
Jason Guan [guanguoming@yahoo.com](mailto:guanguoming@yahoo.com), 941-379-4180

Jason Liu [Liu5051@hotmail.com](mailto:Liu5051@hotmail.com), (941) 923-2959

GCAA website  
[www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org](http://www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org)

Barry Zhang,  
Webmaster: [bzhang@comcast.net](mailto:bzhang@comcast.net)  
Asst. Webmaster John Zhu  
[juntaozhu15@yahoo.com](mailto:juntaozhu15@yahoo.com)

Community Relations  
Director of: Dr. Carolyn Bloomer,  
[cmbloomer@comcast.net](mailto:cmbloomer@comcast.net) (941) 351-0995

Other issues:  
Dr. Xueji Zhang, President  
[xj001us@yahoo.com](mailto:xj001us@yahoo.com) 941- 926-3273

How to unsubscribe to this Newsletter:  
Please send email to [elin@ingenious.com](mailto:elin@ingenious.com) or [pamelaho@att.net](mailto:pamelaho@att.net)

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

Name:  
Email:  
Phone:  
Game (Men's Single, Women's Single or Mixed Double):

Only GCAA members and the members of its sister Associations are eligible for the Tournament.

There are three competition group: Men's Singles; Women's Singles, and Mixed Doubles.

- The Men's Single will play the Best of Five format (Each match will play 11 points).
- Women's Single and Mixed Double will play the Best of Three format.
- Each player will play at least 4 four games.
- The mixed double has to be one man and one women team. If you do not have partner for a mixed double right now, you may find one later.

(Copy and paste the completed registration form, and return by e-mail to Guoming or Jason as soon as possible. Registration is free. Please contact the above with any questions).

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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. 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, we will randomly feature profiles on several members. Please contact us if you wish to be introduced. Volunteers welcome! 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](mailto:elin@ingenious.com), Pamela Ho, [pamelaho@att.net](mailto:pamelaho@att.net), or Ms. Libin Huang [libinh@linkingbt.com](mailto:libinh@linkingbt.com).

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! She makes all of us proud.

--- Edward Lin

**Congratulations** to Nancy Hu, a YMCA Shark swimmer and the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Kevin & Iris Hu. She won overall Individual High Point Award (10 & Under Female) of 2008 Florida Swimming Summer Junior Olympic Championship Long Course that took place on July 17-20, 2008. Nancy broke four individual YMCA Shark records. She and her teammates also broke two Florida Junior Olympic records for 200m free relay and 200m medley relay during the event.

In addition, Nancy has been named the 10 & under girls Short Course "Swimmer of the Year" for 2007-2008 by Florida Swimming. Congratulations again, Nancy!!! We hope to be rooting for you at an upcoming Olympics!

## Announcement:

We warmly and enthusiastically welcome our new co-editor of the GCAA Newsletter – Ms. Pamela Ho Robbins! Please read the featured family capsule below to get to know more about Pam!

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### Ms. Pamela Ho Robbins, Mr. Dale Robbins & family

By Pamela H. Robbins

"What a great privilege," was my first thought when asked to serve as the co-editor of the GCAA newsletter. Since moving to the United States from Singapore in 1996, I have sought to proudly retain my Chinese roots while embracing my new American opportunities. This assignment allows me to stay abreast of important local, national and international issues relevant to my family and our Chinese community.

By way of introduction: My ancestral family is from Canton and I am a native of Singapore; attended college at Brigham Young University in Hawaii; hold a degree in cardio-vascular invasive technology; and am currently pursuing a degree at East-West College of Natural Medicine in order to become a Acupuncturist Physician. In addition to being a full time East-West student, I also serve as an Adjunct Instructor teaching Chinese Language courses.

My husband, Dale is both an entrepreneur and an insurance agent with Bankers Life and Casualty. He specializes in Life, Long Term Care Insurance and financial investments. We both find time to be active in Church, Boy Scouts and our community. Between us we have seven children – three in College, one serving a mission for our Church, two in High School and one in Middle School - the youngest still living with us, Alton, is a junior at Pine View School.

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## 5. Upcoming events & attractions

### Lecture by Dr. Xueping Zhong: "Women Can Hold Up Half the Sky: A Fourth-Told Tale."

Date & Time: Friday November 7, from 7 pm to 9 pm

Location : Sudakoff Center, New College

Map: The Center is at the intersection of Gen. Spatz and Gen. Dougher Place <http://>

[maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=General+Dougher+Place.,+Sarasota,+FL&sll=27.383295,-](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=General+Dougher+Place.,+Sarasota,+FL&sll=27.383295,-)

[82.555797&sspn=0.011013,0.022659&ie=UTF8&ll=27.385791,-](http://82.555797&sspn=0.011013,0.022659&ie=UTF8&ll=27.385791,-)

[82.556012&spn=0.011013,0.022659&z=16&iwloc=addr](http://82.556012&spn=0.011013,0.022659&z=16&iwloc=addr)

Dr. Xueping Zhong, [renowned Tufts University scholar and expert on modern Chinese literature and culture](#), will give a talk on women in contemporary China, titled "Women Can Hold Up Half the Sky: A Fourth-Told Tale." She will be visiting New College campus from Nov. 6 to 8 and the talk is scheduled in the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Here is a brief introduction of Dr. Zhong's scholarship:

Dr. Zhong is Associate Professor of Chinese and Director of the Chinese program at Tufts University. Her field of expertise is modern Chinese Literature and culture, women studies, and film studies. She is an active scholar both here and in the Mainland China and is widely published.

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## 6. Feature Articles and Reports

### Growing Asian-American vote sheds passive past

By *JESSE WASHINGTON, AP National Writer Jesse Washington, Ap National Writer*  
– Sun Oct 26, 6:05 pm ET

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20081026/ap\\_on\\_el\\_pr/the\\_asian\\_vote](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20081026/ap_on_el_pr/the_asian_vote)

LORTON, Va. – For a long time, says Loc Pfeiffer, his fellow Asian-Americans were passive participants in American politics. But things are changing.

"Asians don't like confrontation or being adversarial, but that's politics," says Pfeiffer, a 41-year-old lawyer who was 6 when his parents brought him to America from Vietnam. "The more we're raised and bred here, the less likely we are to be passive. So much of our culture, it's a very, very obedient culture. ... You don't argue with the government. You don't argue with Big Brother. There's the assumption that you give up all your individual rights for the whole. Which is astounding to me, because I'm American now."

An assertive Asian America matters, especially in places like Virginia and Nevada, swing states where Asians have been growing in numbers and influence.

With a booming population of highly educated, increasingly Americanized voters, this former "silent minority" is entering the most engaged and visible era of its political history.

The number of Asians in the United States has grown 25 percent in the last seven years, to 15 million, said Jane Junn, an associate professor of political science at Rutgers University. Educated people are more likely to vote, and 50 percent of the Asian population has a college degree, compared with 25 percent of the U.S. population, Junn said.

"There comes a point where there's a critical mass," said Junn, whose parents were born in Korea. "When you're only one person out of 100, you're very self-conscious about (becoming politically active). But there is power in numbers."

Asian attitudes toward the two presidential candidates are as varied as the nations stretching from India to Malaysia to Japan, lumped into one racial category by the U.S. Census.

Yet some say Barack Obama's rise from humble origins resonates with many Asians who value education and hard work as the keys to success and have been forced to fit their heritage into an American framework.

In a recent column for the San Francisco Chronicle, writer Jeff Yang was even inspired to riff on President Clinton's honorary black membership and ask if Obama's background — parental academic pressure, struggle for identity, guilt-wielding mother, Harvard education — would make him the first Asian-American president.

"So much of what we deal with is the notion of being outsiders, foreigners, of being outside the social dialogue of the United States," Yang said in an interview. "You look at Obama and those are some of the same aspersions and slanders being cast at him. He's kind of the closest thing we can have legally to an immigrant in the White House. He's somebody who understands this journey that Asian-Americans and other immigrants have made."

Obama also spent much of his youth in Hawaii, with its Asian-American majority, and in Indonesia. Obama's half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, is the daughter of his white mother and an Indonesian businessman, and has helped reach out to the Asian-American community.

Yang added that his Taiwan-born parents, who had never voted for a Democratic presidential candidate, were seriously considering Obama.

News of Yang's Obama proclamation inspired hearty laughter at the gathering of a half-dozen lawyers at the home of 65-year-old Paul Nguyen in Lorton. Although many had voted Republican in the past, all but one planned to vote for Obama.

When Nguyen said Asians had to learn the American political system and form a bloc to demand something in return for their votes, the conversation bubbled over: "We never ask for anything. We always work for what we get."

"We're too diverse. You can't bring the Filipinos, the Koreans, the Japanese, everybody all together."

"We're still in the infancy of our presence here."

"Now we're more active, more aware. Over the last 10 or 20 years it's happened very slowly."

In the past, Asians were largely overlooked during past presidential campaigns because of their widely varied nationalities and concentration in the reliably Democratic states of California and New York.

Now, both campaigns have national Asian outreach efforts. In Virginia, Obama's campaign is focusing on sending language-specific volunteers to register voters from particular countries. The McCain campaign's priority is securing the support of community leaders from the Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese, Indian and Filipino communities.

Although no Democratic presidential candidate has won Virginia since Lyndon Johnson in 1964, polls show Obama edging ahead. Meanwhile, the state's Asian population has grown from 3.7 percent in 2000 to 4.8 percent in 2006, above the national average of 4.4 percent.

Virginia's Asians are concentrated in the D.C. suburbs, where the Asian population reaches as high as 16 percent in Fairfax County, as well as the Norfolk area, where the naval operations have attracted Filipinos.

There are roughly 300,000 voting-age Asians in Virginia, and about 100,000 registered Asian voters, according to estimates from the Obama and McCain campaigns.

In 2006, after incumbent Republican Sen. George Allen was caught on tape using the

slur "macaca" to describe an Indian from the opposing campaign, he lost to Democrat Jim Webb by 7,231 votes out of 2.37 million ballots cast. Seventy-six percent of the Asian vote went against Allen.

In the past, many Asians nationally have leaned Republican because of the party's record of fighting Communism, support for small business owners, and emphasis on personal responsibility and family values.

A Vietnamese group from northern Virginia recently endorsed McCain at a rally attended by about 200 people. Some Asian supporters point to McCain's military service, Vietnam imprisonment, an adopted daughter from Bangladesh, plus his support in the Senate for issues such as free trade and visa waivers.

Tuyet Duong, who has been canvassing undecided Vietnamese voters for the Obama campaign, said many people she talks to are voting based on the candidates' life stories rather than the issues, and the fact that McCain fought in Vietnam strikes a powerful chord.

Yet Asian voters nationwide appear to be favoring Obama, the Democrat, in greater numbers than the 54 percent who voted for Democrat John Kerry in 2004.

This could be explained by President Bush's unpopularity, Obama's recent rise in the polls amid the economic implosion, or the fact that Obama's Senate chief of staff and legislative director are Asian. But it also has something to do with a new generation of Asian-Americans.

Two-thirds of U.S. Asians are foreign-born. Their American-born children are now thriving, many in professions like medicine, law and high-tech industries. English is the first language of this second generation. And they have landed squarely in the Obama sweet spot of young and educated supporters.

"I've lived my life trying to be kind of race-neutral," said Michael Chang, 34, who was born in Washington, D.C. to Korean parents. After his father died when he was 10, Chang's mother sent him to law school and his sister to two doctoral degrees, all on a legal secretary's salary.

Chang, who is married to an Italian immigrant, plans to vote for Obama because he likes his stance on the issues and because he's younger. He also believes that Obama's background, coupled with his rejection of racial rhetoric, makes him more relatable for younger, mainstream Asians.

"I'm proud of my heritage, said Chang, "but I think of myself as American."

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## [NPR Podcast-inside workings leading to bailout](#)

*Provided by Linda Fung*

Dear Friends,

If you would like to know how the financial practices in this country, led to this bailout problem, then please listen to this 3-part, one hour in total, and podcast from NPR. It is worth your while to understand this...a huge eye opener for us layman! I don't know, if the secondary option- "Stock Injection Plan" that is mention later on in the podcast is still a possibility, but it's worth calling/ e-mailing our congressmen/ senators/ people

with clout, about.

The show from NPR is, "This American Life" and Ira Glass is the host. Below is a little bio on him and below that is the program link. He does a fine job, interviewing "those in the know." It begins with Oct. 3, and is podcast #365 and titled: Another Frightening Show About the Economy.

Ira Glass  
Host and Executive Producer

Ira Glass started working in public radio in 1978, when he was 19, as an intern at [National Public Radio's](#) Washington headquarters. Over the course of the next 17 years, he worked on nearly every NPR news show and did nearly every production job they had: he was a tape-cutter, desk assistant, newscast writer, editor, producer, reporter, and substitute host. He spent a year in a high school for NPR, and a year in an elementary school, filing every week or two for [All Things Considered](#). He moved to Chicago in 1989 and put *This American Life* on the air in November of 1995.

Please visit the link below to listen to the program.  
<http://podcast.thisamericanlife.org/podcast/365.mp3>

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## 7. Helpful info and articles of interest

### [Report: Some Bottled Water Not So Pure Environmental Group Says Some Brands Have Pollutants and Chemicals; Industry Says Products Are Safe](#)

*By Salynn Boyles*

Source: <http://news.google.com/nwshp?sourceid=navclient&ie=UTF-8>

WebMD Health News

Reviewed by Louise Chang, MD

Oct. 15, 2008 -- Bottled water is widely considered to be a purer choice than tap water, but a new investigation finds that this isn't always the case.

In its test of 10 best-selling brands of bottled water, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) found mixtures of 38 different pollutants including bacteria, fertilizer, and industrial chemicals in some of the tested brands at levels that were similar to tap water.

Several samples of Wal-Mart's Sam's Choice brand sold in California were found to exceed that state's legal limits of contaminants for bottled water.

"The bottled water industry really presents this image of purity, but our investigation demonstrated that it is really hit or miss," EWG senior scientist Olga Naidenko, PhD, tells WebMD. "We found a lot of variation among the same brands which suggests that at the moment consumers can not have confidence in their water."

But a spokesman for the bottled water industry denies the charge and accuses EWG of using "alarmist tactics."

"In general, the report is based on the faulty premise that if any substance is present in a bottled water product, even if it does not exceed the established regulatory limit or no standard has been set, then it's a health concern," International Bottled Water Association President and CEO Joe Doss says in a statement.

In an earlier interview before the release of the report, Doss told WebMD that "consumers can remain confident about drinking bottled water, which is a very safe, healthy, convenient product."

### Testing Bottled Water

The water samples tested for EWG at a University of Iowa water quality laboratory revealed that 10 widely sold brands of bottled water, purchased in nine states and the District of Columbia, contained an average of eight chemical contaminants in each brand.

Two of the waters -- Wal-Mart's Sam's Choice and Giant grocery's Acadia brand -- bore the chemical signatures of the municipal water treatment plants in the areas where they were bottled.

Investigators concluded that the Sam's Choice samples sold in Oakland, Calif. and Mountain View, Calif. had been bottled at a single plant in Las Vegas. The mix of contaminants and contamination levels were the same as in the local municipal water, indicating that little had been done to further purify the water after it was taken from the tap.

By law, bottled water that comes from a municipal water supply has to disclose this on its label, unless the bottler takes steps to further purify the water.

"Clearly, you would not expect to see the level of chemical that the samples had if the extra purification had been done," Naidenko says.

Specifically, the investigators found that:

- 
- Five of the tested waters contained fluoride, six contained small amounts of the fertilizer ingredient nitrate, and two contained the drug acetaminophen, sold as Tylenol.
- 
- Samples of the Sam's Choice water purchased at a San Francisco area Wal-Mart had levels of the disinfection byproducts trihalomethanes that exceeded the California legal limit for these chemicals.
- 
- Samples of the Sam's Choice brand also had higher-than-allowed levels of the chemical bromodichloromethane, which is a known carcinogen.
- 
- Samples of Giant's Acadia brand water also had levels of the chemicals that exceeded California safety standards, although the brand was sold only in mid-Atlantic states, where it met standards.
- 
- The report noted that levels of the chemicals in both waters also exceeded the bottled water industry's voluntary safety standards.

"The bottled water industry boasts that its internal regulations are stricter than the FDA bottled water regulation, but voluntary standards that companies are failing to meet are of little use in protecting public health," the investigators write.

A spokeswoman for Giant Food Stores tells WebMD that the grocery chain is committed to providing "safe, fresh, wholesome, quality products" to its customers. "We can say that the production process for our Acadia brand bottled water contains continuous monitoring and numerous safety and quality assurance controls, including a filtration process that assures that the quality of the product meets all regulatory

standards," Director of Public and Community Relations Tracy Pawelski notes in a statement.

A spokeswoman for Wal-Mart says the company is "puzzled" by the study's findings and that it regularly tests its water for compliance and quality.

"Both our suppliers' tests and tests from an additional external laboratory are not showing any reportable amounts of chlorine or chlorine by-products," says Shannon Frederick, senior communications manager. "We're disappointed that the EWG has not shared more details with us as we continue to investigate this matter." Doss says he finds fault with the way the study was conducted.

"The testing results show that only two [samples] didn't meet a California state standard for one regulated substance," Doss says in a statement. "There are many hundreds of brands sold in the United States that are not involved in this study." He notes that the California requirement is much higher than the FDA standard.

### Bottled Water and Regulation

Federal law requires that annual testing of municipal water quality be made available to the public, but there is no such requirement for the bottled water industry.

Naidenko says the fact that the industry is largely self-regulated with little federal oversight is a big part of the problem.

"The industry says it can police itself, but it is not adhering to its own rules," she says. Doss points out that the EWG has long been critical of its product, but the concerns have largely been environmental, not health related.

The newly released report does urge consumers to choose filtered tap water over bottled water.

"It is unfortunate that certain groups are trying to make this a tap water vs. bottled water issue," he says.

He says the product has been unfairly singled out by environmental groups, and the industry is addressing environmental concerns by using less plastic and more recycled plastic in its packaging.

"We feel very strongly that any efforts to reduce the environmental impact of packaging need to focus on all consumer goods, and not just target one industry," he says.

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## ***Purple Tomatoes May Help Prevent Cancer***

Researchers Test New Breed of Tomatoes Loaded With Antioxidants

By Caroline Wilbert

WebMD Health News <http://www.webmd.com/food-recipes/news/20081027/purple-tomatoes-may-help-prevent-cancer>

Reviewed by [Louise Chang, MD](#)

Oct. 27, 2008 -- A new breed of tomatoes that are specially engineered to have extra antioxidants may help prevent [cancer](#), according to a new study.

Scientists in Europe transferred certain genes of snapdragons to tomatoes, creating a tomato with a dark **purple** color and loads of antioxidants. Researchers tested the

tomatoes on cancer-prone mice; they found that a [diet](#) supplemented by purple tomato powder increased the life span of the mice compared to mice eating a standard diet or a diet supplemented with red tomato powder.

The study, by Eugenio Butelli of the John Innes Centre in England and colleagues from Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands, was published in *Nature Biotechnology*.

For the test, there were three groups of mutant mice, all prone to cancer. These mice typically get tumors and die young.

The first group ate a standard diet. The second group ate a powder taken from freeze-dried regular, red tomatoes. The third group ate powder from freeze-dried dark purple tomatoes.

The dark [purple](#) tomato group lived an average of 182 days, compared to 142 for the standard diet group and 146 days for the red tomato group. The maximum life span of mice who ate the standard diet was 211 days; the maximum life span of mice with the diet supplemented with purple tomato was 260 days.

The engineered tomatoes were richer in anthocyanins, which are pigments produced by plants. They are common in grapes, blackberries, blueberries, and other fruits. Research has suggested that anthocyanins are potent antioxidants and may provide a variety of health benefits, from promoting a healthy heart to fighting cancer.

"These figures argue strongly for the development of strategies to increase the levels of health promoting bioactive compounds such as anthocyanins in the [fruits and vegetables](#) people consume in substantial amounts," the researchers write.

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## 8. The Funnies

### Sick Leave

Source: [www.gcfl.net](http://www.gcfl.net)

Author: Tom Compton

I really needed a few days off from work, but I knew the boss wouldn't give me time off. I thought that maybe if I acted "crazy," then he would tell me to take a few days off. So, I hung upside-down from the ceiling and made funny noises. My co-worker asked me what I was doing. I told her that I was pretending to be a light bulb so the boss might think I was desperately in need of a few days off.

A few minutes later, the boss came into the office and asked, "What in the world are you doing?"

I told him I was a light bulb. He said, "You are clearly stressed out. Go home and rest for a couple of days." I jumped down and walked out of the office.

However, when my co-worker started to follow me, our boss called out, "And where do you think you're going?"

She said, "I'm going home too. I can't work in the dark."

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