

**Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCAA) Newsletter
Sept-Oct Issue 2007 (release date Sept 4, 2007)**

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

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The GCAA Newsletter is sponsored in part by **Feng Shui advisor-practitioner, Gigi Freeman**, member of GCAA since 2005, now available for consultations for those interested. Gigi has been practicing Feng Shui for more than 20 years under the guidance of her Chinese-Filipino-Spanish father who was knowledgeable in Feng Shui principles; She has a certificate from the New York School of Feng Shui where she studied Classical Feng Shui focused on the Compass School and Form School. Feng Shui aims to balance the environment in your home or office, very much like an "acupuncture of your living or work space" to achieve harmony in your life, promote prosperity, success, good health, and good relationships. Gigi has lived most of her life in Asia and Mexico; she moved to Venice, Florida in 2004 with her Cuban-Canadian husband, Larry. You may call her at (941) 484-3917 or (941) 932-1642 for appointments.

1. URGENT NOTICES: =====

Your membership dues are overdue

Those of you who have not yet paid your 2007 GCAA membership dues, please mail in your checks or bring them in the amount of \$25 for family and \$15 for individual membership to our MAF (Mid-Autumn Festival) event. **FOR NEW MEMBERS ONLY:** If you are joining for the first time after July 1, your dues for 2007 are half of the above applicable dues. Make checks payable to GCAA and mail along with completed membership form (attached) to: GCAA, 1109 Millpond Ct. Osprey, FL 34229 Thank you!

Sarasota-Siming Sister City presentation to Sarasota City Commission on Sept 4

See details under Upcoming events.

Fly the American flag outside your home on September 11

On Tuesday, September 11th, 2007 fly an American flag outside your home, apartment, office, or store to commemorate the anniversary of our country's worst tragedy. We do this in honor of those who lost their lives on 9/11, their families, friends and loved ones who continue to endure the pain, and those who today are fighting at home and abroad to preserve our cherished freedoms.

Mail in your ticket reservations by Sept 12 for the Famous 12-Girl Band from China

The famous 12 girl band (comprising 12 of the most musically talented girls from China playing all sorts of music from classical to pop on traditional Chinese musical instruments!!) will be coming to Tampa on Oct 17th of 2007. See details under Upcoming events.

2. MESSAGES from the Chairman =====

Dear members and friends,

The recent spate of food, toy and tire recalls made in China raised public awareness of the terrible deficiency in regulatory control by the Chinese government. These unsafe products deserve to be condemned and the Chinese government must diligently work to correct these problems. The people in China also deserve safer products and the recalls will result in benefit for everyone in the long run. China is not alone in making unsafe products: Sweden leads in the number of recalled candies, India in food. And the US? We have our own share of contaminated beef and spinach, American-made tire blow-outs and botulinum-contaminated canned foods.

The media feeding frenzy and scapegoating of China ("The Red Menace") fueled American resentment of China—and the Chinese people. Trade relations and economic co-dependence are extremely complex and cannot be fairly dealt with by expedient and sensational headlines. And we, as Chinese Americans, have to live with the consequences of inflamed xenophobia and racism that is seldom acknowledged publicly. The recent rash of robberies of Chinese restaurants and stores in Sarasota-Bradenton is troubling.

Remember how many "Arab-looking" Americans were attacked and beaten in the wake of 9/11 or how Vincent Chin, a Chinese American was clubbed to death in Detroit by two men because auto-workers there mistook him to be Japanese and decided to vent their anger for competition from Japanese auto imports? What happened to the perpetrators? Not much. In the case of Vincent Chin, the two men who pleaded guilty were each sentenced to \$3700 in fines and two years' probation (not a single day in jail). See: http://us_asians.tripod.com/articles-vincentchin.html ."

These outrageous miscarriages of justice are a far cry from the days when blacks could be lynched, hung and burned as a public spectacle, or when thousands of Chinese immigrants in the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain region (from 1850 – 1906) were systematically driven from their homes and stores. Yes, America—our beloved symbol of democracy and enlightenment--has its own dark and shameful past and it took great men and women to stand up for what they believe to push this great country forward to become a more enlightened, humane and compassionate nation.

The battle against racism is a never-ending battle and like the battle to end slavery or women's suffrage, it takes unity, group effort and persistent action to achieve. **All of us have the ability to make this world a better place, and we MUST.** GCAA is the organization to help you accomplish that.

GCAA is a not-for-profit all-volunteer organization that is committed to advancing the interests, welfare and education of not just Chinese Americans but also all our friends and supporters in the community. As a steadfast symbol of our service charter, our activities are open to everyone in the community. By our united, collective actions, guided by principles of equality, honesty, compassion and service, we demonstrate to others that we are decent, honorable and contributing members of our society and deserving of our rights and protection under the constitution. **GCAA is here for you.**

Regular and prompt payment of your membership dues provide financial stability to fund GCAA activities. When held at Venice Community Center and other public locations such as Twin Lakes Park, just the rental fee ALONE can run into hundreds of dollars.

From time to time during the year, GCAA is requested to assist in or participate in certain civic and community activities which require expenditure. For example, we donated a modest amount of money to help defray the cost of a plane ticket for Wei QingHong who represented GCAA in the Sarasota delegation that traveled to Xiamen with Dr. Bloomer to cement the Sarasota-Xiamen sister City relationship. Helen Pollak and May Thomas made reprints of GCAA activities and put them into an album that was presented as a friendship gift to the government of the Siming District of the City of Xiamen. In August, GCAA was prepared to make a donation to a Chinese family suspected to be in financial hardship. Upon investigation, this turned out not to be the case and appropriate alternative assistance was provided instead. **Help us help you, our members, and our community by paying your dues and enjoy the satisfaction of making a difference by volunteering to serve! Donations are greatly appreciated.**

Together, we can and will make a positive difference. Please step forward and answer the call to service. We'd all be better for it. Thank you.

Ed

Dr. Edward Lin
Encourage Inspire Empower

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

GCAA helps local woman correct code violation and avoid fines of thousands of dollars

By Wei Qinghong

Earlier this year, a Chinese woman from Guangdong, China, ran afoul of the Sarasota City Code. She spoke hardly any English and was trying to earn a living by recycling bottles and cardboard. Large quantity of recyclable waste was stored on her property so the City cited her for code violation. Because of the language barrier and unfamiliarity with local regulations, she did not take the necessary actions to bring her property into compliance for several months. In the meantime, her fines had escalated into the thousands of dollars.

Upon learning this woman's situation, several GCAA members immediately lent her their helping hands, offered legal advice, accompanied her to code compliance hearings, worked with her to clean up her property, and most importantly, helped her understand the serious situation she was in and how to resolve the problem. Finally, all the efforts paid off and the story came to a happy ending. Last Thursday, the citation against her was removed and the hefty fine waived. *[Editor: We applaud and thank the following for their involvement in this matter: Wei Qinghong, Sean Kuang, May Jang, May Thomas, Helen Pollak, Paul Cherry, Esq. and Ed Lin. Yet another example of GCAA's exemplary volunteer spirit, working to help a family in need.]*

Thoughts worthy of reflection

It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.
Henry David Thoreau

I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free.
Michelangelo

I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge
-- myth is more potent than history
-- dreams are more powerful than facts
-- hope always triumphs over experience

-- laughter is the cure for grief
-- love is stronger than death.
Robert Fulghum

The GCAA Newsletter is sponsored in part by
J&K Kitchen & Bath, 4141 Tamiami Trail S.
Sarasota, FL 34231 Phone: (941) 922-6981 Mobile: 646-831-8181 email : jk58inc@hotmail.com

The new owners, Mr. KongBiao Ni and Ms. JinXing Yang, started their business in January 2007 They warmly welcomes **GCAA members and friends with a 20% discount**. If you are planning a remodeling or building a custom home, put J&K to work for you. They are also hiring sales staff. If you are a good salesperson and have computer skills, please call Ms. Yang as soon as possible.

3. Programs Committee Report =====

GCAA Dance Party

By Jason Guan

The first GCAA dance party was held in FPC gym on August 31. The party lasted about two and a half hours. The gym was decorated with Christmas lights and balloons. There were plenty of refreshments and drinks. People came with great enthusiasm, especially ladies dressed up so nicely. George Arvay showed us how to do the Cha-Cha and Tango. It turned out the dance is simple to follow if one remembers the basic steps: "1-2-cha-cha-cha-1-2-cha-cha-cha-..." for Cha-Cha and "slow-Slow-qk-qk-slow-slow-qk-qk-..." for Tango. Men always start with left feet forward and ladies always start with right feet backward. Besides dancing, people enjoyed the conversations with each other. Kids also had great fun running around. It was a great experience and we had a lot of fun in one night. We welcome more people to attend next time. It will be a great night for you even if you have never danced before.

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.

4. Schedule of GCAA Activities =====

GCAA Speaker Series

Both events will take place at The Faith Church, 1201 N. Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL 34232 (at Beneva and 12th St) where the Sarasota Chinese Academy holds its classes)

Sunday Sept 9, 1:30-3:00PM in the auditorium
"The Treatment and Prevention for Cancer in Chinese Medicine"
By Dr. RJ Zhao, Director, Center for Chinese Medicine

Sunday October 7, 1:30-3:00PM in the auditorium or nearby conference room.

"Computer Protection Against Virus and other Attacks"

By Mr. Feng Hou, Chief Information Officer at Manatee Community College. Mr. Feng has a MS degree in Computer Science

Mid-Autumn Festival (MAF) Celebration

September 22, 2007

GCAA will host the Mid-Autumn Festival (MAF) party at **Twin Lakes Park** on **September 22** (Saturday) from 3 pm to 8 pm. **Directions:** From I-75 take Exit 205 for Clark Rd (Rte 72). Head east on Clark Rd for 1/4 mile, the park is on the right. Twin Lake s Park address: 6700 Clark Rd, Sarasota.

This year's MAF is specially geared for the young at heart. We'll have all kinds of games like potato sack race, tug of war, three legged races, hard boiled egg race, and a lot more.

So get ready and start training! And of course, what autumn festival will be complete without yummy moon cakes and Chinese music?

We also do not want people to go home empty handed. We'll be selling raffle tickets and giving out some fabulous prizes. **Please bring items you wish to donate for raffle prizes.**

Any one who is interested is welcomed to participate to have lots of fun and enjoy delicious Chinese food, moon cake and BBQ. **THIS IS A POT-LUCK EVENT. PLEASE BRING A GENEROUS AMOUNT OF FOOD, SUFFICIENT TO FEED AT LEAST THE NUMBER IN YOUR PARTY. Thank you**

Contact Person: Sean Kuang (941) 538-8525

Visit our website www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org for updates.

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

September 15

Two films set in the turbulent period just before and after the revolution of 1911 which resulted in the establishment of the Republic of China under Sun Yat Sen.

1:30: **Qiu Jin: A Revolutionary** (*Qiu Jin*)

Director: Xie Jin, 1983 110 min.

Well known in China as a revolutionary martyr, Qiu Jin was the educated daughter of a progressive family (she was educated and did not have bound feet) who was married to a minor Qing dynasty bureaucrat, She deserted her family to join Sun Yat Sen's revolution and was executed in 1907 following a failed uprising against the Qing.

3:30: **Peking Opera Blues** 刀马旦 (*Dao ma dan* / actress with acrobatic fighting skill)

Director: Tsui Hark, Hong Kong, 1986. 95 min.

Set in 1913, shortly after the establishment of the Republic in 1911, this drama of political intrigue involves a warlord's daughter who joins the underground liberation movement and becomes embroiled in a plot to steal her father's jewels.

October 20

Fans of old movies will enjoy these black-and-white films from the 1930s and 40s which are classic patriotic Chinese expressions of a world-wide leftist filmmaking movement promoting socialist ideals.

1:30: **Big Road** aka *The Highway*_湘女萧萧 (*Da lu*)

Director: Sun Yu, 1934. Silent with added sound-track and subtitles

The story emphasizes the camaraderie of six young men in a large work-gang building a military highway for the United Front during the War of Resistance to Japan. A traitorous landlord imprisons them in a dungeon and the young women who have befriended them set about to engineer their rescue in a race against time for the completion of the highway.

3:30: **Crows and Sparrows** 乌鸦与麻雀 (*Wuya yu maque*),

Director Zheng Junli, 1949. 108 min.

In 1948 in Shanghai during the last days of the civil war between the Communists and Nationalists, tenants struggle to survive under a corrupt and greedy landlord and high-ranking Nationalist official who plans to sell the building and flee to Taiwan. One of the most renowned social commentary films of the era.

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.

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).

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

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 minimal sections (such as GCAA Good Sundays) 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!

6. Kudos and spotlight on our members and families =====

Don't be shy. Please let us know what's happening in your family that our community should know about. We'll all crow along.

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



Kudos

Our hearty congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Jonathan and Sophia Fong and their family: James Fong won the Grand Prize of a Family Reunion Contest sponsored by the National Grandparents Day Council this summer. Grandparents, Dick and Eva Fong of Philadelphia, are now dubbed "National Grandparents of the Year". Please go to website: <http://www.grandparents-day.com/y2007/natl-winners.html> and view the reunion picture and family tree he entered into the contest.

Spotlight on members and families

Dr. & Mrs. Xueji Zhang (current GCAA President) and Jie Lin

Chances are, few of you know that our new GCAA President, Dr. Zhang, is a world renowned scientist in superoxide sensors. Xueji and Jie were chemistry majors (yup, the chemistry was right and attractive forces irresistible!) at Wuhan University, both Class of 1989. Following graduation, Jie taught at Hubei College of Pharmaceutical and Clinical Technology while Xueji continued his Ph.D. study. In 1994, Xueji was awarded the First Prize in Science, Technology and Invention in China and recognized in national media. In 1995, they went to the National Institute of Chemistry, Slovenia and ETH, Zurich, Switzerland to continue their research, supported by UN scholarship. In 1997, Xueji was awarded W Simon Fellowship by World Laboratory (only two awardees in the world) and in 1998, moved to U.S. as scientists. Currently, Xueji is Senior VP at World Precision Instruments Inc, an Adjunct Professor at USF and Guest Professor at Chinese Academy of Sciences. He also serves as Associate Editor of Frontiers in Bioscience and editorial board member of many other international journals. Xueji just finished his EMBA courses at USF and MIT respectively. Jie is chief chemist of Integrity Nutraceuticals International Inc. They have two sons, Michael Wenbo Zhang and Andrew Wenrui Zhang who are 10th grader at Pine View and 2nd grader at Ashton Elementary School respectively. Wenbo is a young artist of amazing caliber.

In spite of his busy professional schedule, Dr. Zhang answered the call to serve as GCAA president. Let us all do our part as team members to make our organization the best it can be.

Mr. And Mrs. Jamie & Nancy Milholland

Jamie and Nancy Milholland of Sarasota are the proud parents of one child adopted from China, Olivia Yun (age 3). Jamie received his BA in economics from the University of Colorado at Boulder and Nancy received her BA in Communication and psychology from the same university and her Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology and Counselor Education from the University of Colorado at Denver. Nancy did her internship at Porter Hospital in Denver specializing in Eating Disorders and practiced psychotherapy in Denver for more than 12 years. Nancy is the Director of Marketing of Fine Home Inspections, Inc., serves on her neighborhood association board, and is the Sarasota Chinese Academy PTA president this year. Jamie's career has involved a number of pursuits, the primary one as a union theatre, film and commercial actor. Jamie has also been a professional home inspector and ICC certified Building Inspector since 1997. He is a member of the American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI) and The Florida Association of Building Inspectors (FABI). Nancy and Jamie have owned Fine Home Inspections (FHI) for over 4 years where Jamie performs residential home inspections, including construction stage and insurance inspections. Jamie is also an affiliate member of the Sarasota Association of Realtors and has been an active volunteer with their Community Outreach Program helping less fortunate families repair their homes. *[Editor's note: If you have made storm fortifications to your home, a certified inspection by Jamie could lead to significant discounts on your Home Owner's policy premium. You can reach Jamie at (941) 362-4862]*

Drs. Sean & Sunny Kuang

Xuheng (Sean) and Yanrong (Sunny) were from Hunan and Sichuan Provinces, respectively. Xuheng obtained his BS and MS in Electrical & Hydraulic Engineering from Wuhan University in 1994 and 1997, and then worked for China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research in Beijing for 5 years. Yanrong obtained her BS and MS from Tongji University. The couple came to the US in 2001 and both earned their PhDs in Civil Engineering from Louisiana State University in 2005. Xuheng works for Boyle Engineering Corporation in Sarasota and Yanrong works for Manatee County, both as civil engineers. Their 4-yr old daughter, Vivian is in the VPK program in Gullet Elementary School in Bradenton.

Xuheng's hobbies include basketball, tennis, golf, Chinese chess and playing cards; Yanrong likes tennis and volleyball; Vivian likes all outdoor activities. Both Xuheng and Yanrong are dedicated volunteers in our organization. As the new co-Director of GCAA's Program, Sean will help bring new exciting programs for the enjoyment and benefit of our community. We are thankful to Sean and Sunny for their exemplary spirit of community service.

Ms. Libin Huang & Mr. Gene Smith

Libin Huang was born and raised in southern China by physician parents. After her BS degree in Medical Laboratory Science, she earned a MS in Industrialization Management (bio-industries focus) in France where she met her globe-trotting husband, Gene Smith. Gene is an executive with the St. Pete-based electronics manufacturing service giant, Jabil. The couple has been living in Michigan and recently purchased a second home in North Venice, Florida.

Leveraging her business connections and fluent command of English, French and Chinese (Mandarin & Cantonese), Libin heads a business consulting firm, Linking Businesses & Technologies, LLC (<http://linkingbt.com>) to serve clients in China and North America with market access, strategy development, private research, and supply chain solutions. .

Gene and Libin's hobbies are: traveling, boating, golfing and fishing. Libin also likes diving and painting. They are an outgoing couple and Libin (Tel: 248 701-0878) is looking forward to being an active contributing member of GCAA. **She will assume editorship of our newsletter beginning with the Nov-Dec 2007 issue.** Thank you, Libin!

7. Upcoming events and attractions =====

Sarasota-Siming Sister City presentation to Sarasota City Commission

September 4, 2007

On Tuesday September 4, shortly after 6 p.m., Dr. Carolyn Bloomer (along with Carla Rayman, President of Sarasota Sister Cities Association) will present a 10-minute report to the Sarasota City Commission on the recent Sister Cities delegation visit to Xiamen.

The presentation will include 5 minutes of video of the visit, and will be held at City Hall in the Commission Chambers on the ground floor. The Commission meeting will be broadcast live on Channel 19. Videos of all Commission meetings can also be accessed on the City web-site <http://www.sarasotagov.com/index2.html>. Just click on "watch Live ..." on the left side of the site. The two previous presentations in relation to Siming/Xiamen were on July 5 and September 15, 2006.

We would be delighted if GCAA and USCPFA members came to attend the Commission meeting. Your presence would demonstrate community interest and support for this city-to-city relationship.

Seminar on Boosting Export Sales Using Export Financing Solutions

September 25

The U.S. Department of Commerce, along with SunTrust Bank and the Sarasota-Manatee Area Manufacturers' Association, is sponsoring a seminar in Sarasota, Florida on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 focusing on how to use U.S. Government and private-sector export financing tools, ranging from pre-export to post-export financing. The Seminar on Boosting Export Sales Using Export Financing Solutions will cover the topics of pre-export working capital loans, export receivables insurance, EXIM Bank, SBA, and Florida Export Finance Corporation programs. Speakers will include:

- * Jim Morris, Director, Miami Regional Office, Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of the U.S.
- * Mary Hernandez, Regional Manager, International Trade, Small Business Administration (SBA)
- * Roberto Rivera, Vice President, Florida Export Finance Corporation (FEFC)
- * Charlotte Starfire, Director, Global Trade Solutions, SunTrust Bank

This event will take place from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM, and will include Continental Breakfast and materials. The fee is \$30 and the deadline to register is Friday, September 21, 2007.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or Sandra Campbell at 727-893-3738.

George L. Martinez, Director
Tampa Bay Export Assistance Center
U.S. Department of Commerce
Clearwater: T-727-893-3738, F-727-893-3839
Tampa: T-813-864-6508, F-813-864-6509
E-Mail: george.martinez@mail.doc.gov
Web site: www.trade.gov/cs

Annual Tropical Fruit Tree Sale

September 30

19th Annual Rare Fruit Tree Sale presented by Sarasota Fruit & Nut Society
Over one thousand fruit plants offered by a dozen vendors. Expert advice on all aspects of growing and what works in your area.
Free admission/Free parking. 10 am to 4 pm Sunday only. Arrive early for best selection
Info at www.sfns.net sfns@comcast.net or (941) 966-4377

Siming Delegation Visit

October 5-11, 2007

A delegation of officials from Siming / Xiamen will visit Sarasota **October 6-11** for the second official signing on Tuesday, October 9, to which all GCAA members will receive an invitation. The delegation will also visit with Sarasota persons and organizations interested in exchange relationships.

To make this delegation visit a success, and to develop sustainable exchanges with Siming (Xiamen) in the future, **we need the active participation of GCAA members.** For the visitation, we need **volunteers** to assist with planning, committee tasks, translation, transportation, and photography. Please contact: Dr. Carolyn Bloomer, cbloomer@Ringling.edu or phone 351-0995.

2007 USCPFA Convention speakers schedule

October 6 & 7

Saturday

6:00 + Tai Chi on the beach Richard Cummings

8:30-10:00 Opening Plenary

10:15-11:15 Session 1

Dr. Carolyn Bloomer: Chinese Women in 1930's Shanghai Poster Art

11:15-12:15 Session 2

Allan Staib: Ten + Years of Changes in Chinese Business

12:30-2:00 Keynote speaker at lunch

Sidney Gluck: China's New Deal

2:15-3:15 Session 3

Panel discussion, Education in China

Archie McKee moderator: **Grace McKee, John Marienthal, Julie Nichols, Jean Faglie.**

3:15-4:15 Session 4

Bart Trescott: Humanizing China's Economy - New Deal or No Deal

4:30-5:30 resolution discussions

6:00-7:00 Social Hour

7:00 + Keynote speaker with Luau

Li Jian Ping: Implementing China's New Deal

9:00 +/-

Chen Defu: US-China Friendship Documentary Film

Sunday

6:00 +/- Tai Chi on the beach **Richard Cummings**

8:30-10:00 Regional Meetings

10:00-11:00 Sessions 5 A and B

A **George Arvay:** SOS Children's Villages in China

B **Dr. Ed Lin:** My American Odyssey

11:00-12:15 Sessions 6 A and B

A **Al Abati:** Religion in China

B **Dr. Daphne Rosenzweig:** Power Dragons in Chinese Art

12:30-2:00 Luncheon

Dr. Garver: U.S.-China Relations: China's Evolving Role in the International Community

2:15-3:15 Session 7 A and B

A **Jill Dye**: The Spirit of Chinese Brush-A Tradition of Beauty and Balance
 B **Cheryl Burke**: Chinese Blue Porcelain
 3:15-6:15 Closing Plenary
 6:00-7:00 Social Hour
 7:00 + Keynote speaker with banquet
Dr. Marilyn Wilhelm: Returning to our Roots-the Way to Harmony, A Dialogue with Confucius and Socrates.

The 12 Girl Band

October 17th

Location: Tampa Bay Performing Art Center

The famous 12 girl band (comprising 12 of the most musically talented girls from China play all sorts of music from classical to pop on traditional Chinese musical instruments!!) will be coming to Tampa on Oct 17th of 2007. You are interested in watching a fantastic show, please order your discounted tickets through our sister organization, SACA in Tampa or directly (no discount) at www.tbpac.org or call 813-229-229-star. We would like to acknowledge our appreciation to Ms. Anna Chou, President of SACA and its board for extending reciprocity to GCAA members so that the GCAA members would enjoy the same discounted rate [Arranged by Ed Lin].

For review, please visit:
http://asiancemagazine.com/aug_2007/twelve_girls_band_coming_to_america

Discounted rates through SACA:

Group rates: (there are only two ticket rates available)
 \$33.60(ticket) + \$1.25(service fee) = \$34.85 (seating in the B area)
 \$25.10(ticket) + \$1.25(service fee) = \$26.35 (seating in the C, D area)

- *If you get individual ticket at the ticket office, the service fee is \$8.00 per ticket.
- *The ticket money goes to The 12 Girls Band.
- *The service fee goes to Tampa Bay Performing Art Center

Compare the difference between group rates offered by SACA and individual rates:

	<u>INDIVIDUAL</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
Price A (seating A area)	\$49.50 + \$8 = \$57.50	N/A
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The savings through SACA will be around \$12 dollars.

SACA Board is accepting reservations now. The reservations will run from **8/29/2007 to 9/12/2007** (2 weeks). Please complete and send in your reservation form with a personal check payable to SACA. **AND BE SURE TO NOTE ON YOUR CHECK THAT YOU ARE A GCAA MEMBER!!!**

Mail to:
SACA Membership
5558 1/2 Park Blvd.,
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Please do not send cash.

For any questions you may have, please email to: sacatampabay@gmail.com

8. Feature Articles and Reports =====

Never underestimate the power of a woman

By Kathleen To, 80-20 President

87 years ago on 8/19/1920, the 19th Amendment was ratified and became a reality seven days later. This all happened because of the effort of one raw-boned, determined pioneer lady who lived in the small gold mining town named South Pass City, Wyoming. The lady's name is Esther Hobart Morris.

In January when the legislature was in session, Esther traveled to Cheyenne to have her suffrage proposal heard by the State Congress. Because of the lack of hotels, many folks had to stay in rooming houses. Several of these houses were operated by "Madams". Esther rented a room at one of such rooming houses. Each morning she would trudge to the capitol building, come home each night sad and dejected. After a few such days, the "Madam" feeling sorry for Esther and found out her reason. Esther was trying to meet with certain senators and congressmen that held responsible positions so she could present her proposal but no one had given her the time of day. When Esther gave the "Madam" the names of these legislators, the "Madam"s face brightened up and said, "I know all of these men and we are on a first name basis. I believe I can help you."

The "Madam" arranged a tea party and all these prominent Congressmen were all invited and in attendance and Esther presented her Women's Suffrage Proposal. Because of this delicate situation, every congressman agreed to act upon Esther's proposal. This made Wyoming the first state in the Union to allow women the right to vote.

For authenticity of this story, contact friends of South Pass, Fremont Co. Library, 412 N. Second St., Lander, WY 82520. 307-332-5194

As I review the news each day, I am convinced that the politics today haven't changed all that much.

It is not only what you do, but also what you don't do, for which you are accountable.

Enthusiastic Delegation Returns from China

By Dr. Carolyn Bloomer

A tired but enthusiastic delegation returned to Sarasota from their very successful June 5-11 visit to Sarasota's newest sister city, the Siming District 思明区 of Xiamen City 厦门市, Fujian Province 福建省.

The delegation was led by Mayor Lou Ann Palmer 饱陆安市長 and coordinated by Sarasota Sister Cities Association City Director-for relations with Siming, Dr. Carolyn Bloomer 白伦美博士, who has worked diligently for several years to promote this exciting relationship. Delegates included SSCA members, John Freeman 副瑞满 (Vice President, Economic Development), Linda Rosenbluth 饶琳达 (past SSCA President, now City Director for Tel Mond, Israel), Hope Byrnes 班鹤琶 (past SSCA President, now Vice President for Education & Culture), Dr. Ray Young 楊锐宜博士 (Chair, Higher Education), Kheng Tan 陈庆强 (import/export business development and GCAA member), Archie McKee 马阿棋 (education and teacher exchanges, USCPFA member), and Wei Qinghong 魏庆泓 (Sarasota City Planning Department and GCAA member).

Throughout the week delegates met with Siming officials, directors of cultural, educational, scientific, and medical institutions, and representatives of business and development interests to explore exchange opportunities with Sarasota. These included the Xiamen Urban Planning Bureau, Xiamen Education Bureau, Wan Shi Botanical Gardens, Overseas Chinese Garden for the Introduction of Subtropical Species, Underwater World of Xiamen, Xiamen University College of Oceanography and Environmental Science, Xiamen Science and Technology Museum, Xiamen University Center for European Art, Fujian Arts and Crafts College, Xiamen Music School, Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra, Xiamen Art and

Culture Center, Xiamen Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Datong Model Primary School, various levels of the Xiamen General Chamber of Commerce and other business and commerce representatives.

The delegation delivered approximately twenty official letters of interest from Sarasota organizations. Chinese translations for every letter were provided by GCAA volunteers Zhang Xueji, Jason Guan, Zhu Hexiang, Jia Ya, and Wei Qinghong. 非常感谢您们! Organizations included Mote Marine Laboratory, Mote Aquarium, Selby Gardens, Sarasota Fruit and Nut Society, University of Florida County Extension Office, Sarasota Military Academy, Ringling College of Art and Design, Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County, Key Chorale, Embracing Our Differences, Florida Studio Theater, Sarasota County Arts Council, Art Center Sarasota, New College, Manatee Community College Art Department, Ringling College of Art and Design, Gulfoast Chinese American Association (GCAA), Sarasota Chapter U.S.-China People's Friendship Association (USCPFA).

Mayor Palmer 宝陆安市長 and Zhang Canmin 张灿民区长, Chief of the People's Government of Siming District signed an official friendship agreement in an impressive ceremony that included an exchange of gifts between the two cities.

Dr. Bloomer and SSCA President Carla Rayman will make a short report to the Sarasota City Commission on September 4th at the Commission's 6 p.m. meeting, which is open to the public and will be available on the City website. The delegation was also the subject of Cliff Roles' radio show on July 31 (WSLR, 96.5 FM). Dr. Bloomer will be interviewed again by Cliff Roles about the China relationship at 4:30 on September 27; the magazine SRQ has also expressed an interest – so keep your eyes out for coverage.

8b. 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. Libing Huang libinh@linkingt.com. Letters to the Editor are also welcome. Thank you.

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 course are also available. Good luck!

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BOOK REVIEW: "Driven Out: The Forgotten War Against Chinese Americans"

BY Jean Pfaelzer

Pfaelzer, professor of American studies, reveals one of the most disgraceful chapters in American history - the purging of thousands of Chinese immigrants in the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain region between 1850 and 1906. Drawing on newspaper accounts, diaries, legal pleadings, and photographs, Pfaelzer retells the story of the horrific purge of the Chinese. Testifying in their own words, Chinese businessmen recall being driven out of their shops, while women tell of being forced into prostitution; they were driven from gold mines, orchards, and small towns in the booming West. The Chinese responded with defenses from boycotts to lawsuits asking for reparations, challenges to police harassment, shipments of arms from China, and pressure on the Chinese government to intervene. Pfaelzer also

catalogs the racist images of docile and dirty Chinese subject to lynchings, night raids, murder, expulsion, and deportation. She compares the expulsions to those in Nazi Germany, as well as modern Rwanda and Bosnia, and puts the Driven Out campaign into the broader context of American racism. *Vanessa Bush*
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Book Description

The brutal and systematic “ethnic cleansing” of Chinese Americans in California and the Pacific Northwest in the second half of the nineteenth century is a shocking—and virtually unexplored—chapter of American history. *Driven Out* unearths this forgotten episode in our nation’s past. Drawing on years of groundbreaking research, Jean Pfaelzer reveals how, beginning in 1848, lawless citizens and duplicitous politicians purged dozens of communities of thousands of Chinese residents—and how the victims bravely fought back.

In town after town, as races and classes were pitted against one another in the raw and anarchistic West, Chinese miners and merchants, lumberjacks and field workers, prostitutes and merchants’ wives, were gathered up at gunpoint and marched out of town, sometimes thrown into railroad cars along the very tracks they had built.

Here, in vivid detail, are unforgettable incidents such as the torching of the Chinatown in Antioch, California, after Chinese prostitutes were accused of giving seven young men syphilis, and a series of lynchings in Los Angeles bizarrely provoked by a Chinese wedding. From the port of Seattle to the mining towns in California’s Siskiyou Mountains to “Nigger Alley” in Los Angeles, the first Chinese Americans were hanged, purged, and banished. Chinatowns across the West were burned to the ground.

But the Chinese fought back: They filed the first lawsuits for reparations in the United States, sued for the restoration of their property, prosecuted white vigilantes, demanded the right to own land, and, years before *Brown v. Board of Education*, won access to public education for their children. Chinese Americans organized strikes and vegetable boycotts in order to starve out towns that tried to expel them. They ordered arms from China and, with Winchester rifles and Colt revolvers, defended themselves. In 1893, more than 100,000 Chinese Americans refused the government’s order to wear photo identity cards to prove their legal status—the largest mass civil disobedience in United States history to that point.

Driven Out features riveting characters, both heroic and villainous, white and Asian. Charles McGlashen, a newspaper editor, spearheaded a shift in the tactics of persecution, from brutality to legal boycotts of the Chinese, in order to mount a run for governor of California. Fred Bee, a creator of the Pony Express, became the Chinese consul and one of the few attorneys willing to defend the Chinese. Lum May, a dry goods store owner, saw his wife dragged from their home and driven insane. President Grover Cleveland, hoping that China’s 400,000 subjects would buy the United States out of its economic crisis, persuaded China to abandon the overseas Chinese in return for a trade treaty. Quen Hing Tong, a merchant, sought an injunction against the city of San Jose in an important precursor to today’s suits against racial profiling and police brutality.

In *Driven Out*, Jean Pfaelzer sheds a harsh light on America’s past. This is a story of hitherto unknown racial pogroms, purges, roundups, and brutal terror, but also a record of valiant resistance and community. This deeply resonant and eye-opening work documents a significant and disturbing episode in American history.

“Jean Pfaelzer has pulled back the veil on one of the most horrendous, frightening, violent, and little known moments in American history, when the Chinese were driven from their homes and businesses in an effort to expel them from communities, states, and ultimately the country. This is the most comprehensive history of this period I have ever read, and Pfaelzer has written it with sensitivity and a keen eye for the horrifying, heartbreaking, and often uplifting and triumphant details. *Driven Out* couldn’t be more timely or important.”

—Lisa See, Author, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*

“*Driven Out: the Forgotten War Against Chinese Americans* is a meticulously researched and very readable recounting of America’s systematic effort to purge all Chinese immigrants, from the mid-19th into the early-20th centuries. Jean Pfaelzer documents hundreds of cases in which the Chinese were lynched, maimed, burned out of their neighborhoods, and forced at gunpoint to leave mining camps, small villages, Indian reservations, and Chinatowns. The methodical and ruthless nature of this ethnic cleansing was

matched only by the resistance from the Chinese — sometimes with guns and knives or fists and sometimes with savvy recourse to their government representatives as well as petitions, public confrontations, and hundreds of lawsuits using white attorneys up to the U.S. Supreme Court. Pfaelzer has names and stories for these incidents — making the actors real and accessible. This is a valuable addition to our understanding of the making of modern America.”

–Franklin Odo, Director, Smithsonian Institution Asian Pacific American Program; Author, *The Columbia Documentary History of the Asian American Experience*

“Thanks to this gripping narrative, Chinese immigrants to the Far West — so long overlooked — now stand front and center in the saga of the struggle for civil rights in these United States.”

– Kevin Starr, University of Southern California; Author, *California, A History*

"Too few Americans have any idea that these events mark the nation's past. Pfaelzer capably reconstructs a shameful history."

– *Kirkus Reviews*

August 2, 2007

Nothing is scarier than the China scare

By Debasish Roy Chowdhury

BEIJING - A new food scare has gripped the United States, with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) urging people to throw away more than 90 different products, made at a Castleberry's Food Co plant, from chili sauce to corned-beef hash to dog food, for fears that they are causing botulism, a muscle-paralyzing disease.

Seven cases of botulism have so far been reported. Most victims consumed a hotdog chili sauce made at the company's plant in

the US state of Georgia that has been temporarily closed. The recall has been expanded to Canada as well.

Castleberry's is owned by Bumble Bee Foods, the largest branded seafood company in North America - not in China, the evil land from where all the toxic food and lethal products in the world supposedly emanate.

The list of product recalls in the United States in recent months is almost inexhaustible. In March, Ford Motor Co recalled 2008 Super Duty trucks made in a Kentucky plant after reports of tailpipe fires in the diesel version of the vehicles; in June, California-based United Food Group recalled 34,000 kilograms of ground-beef products after they were suspected to have been contaminated with the bacterium *Escherichia coli* (*E coli*); and in July, Sara Lee Corp began to recall dozens of its whole-wheat bread brands made at a Mississippi bakery for fears that they contained pieces of metal.

But the product scares and recalls the US media seem fixated on are the ones from China. It is the faulty tires, toothpaste, pet food, seafood and toys with a China connection that are making all the news, with cover stories, editorials and television programs harping on how China's "substandard" manufacturing methods are putting American consumers at risk, how the factory to the world is actually one big sham, and proffering ways to keep off products with any trace of China.

As a bonus, the China horror story even has a feel-good subtext - nothing can match US quality; if China makes goods cheaper than the US, now you know how: by cutting corners.

This fear of Chinese products is reinforced by administrative measures. At the height of the product scare, the US government quickly formed a cabinet-level panel to recommend how to guarantee the safety of imported food and other products. In this self-delusional world of policymaking, the Castleberry's and the United Food Groups do not exist, it is only the products coming from outside the United States that pose a threat.

Though it was denied that the move was aimed at China, the announcement came the same day US senators heard testimony from quality regulators about problems caused by the extremely rapid growth of imports from China.

That is really what this is all about - rising imports from China. It is not the Chinese-product scare; what is actually being played out is the China scare - the antiquated, mercantilist fear of imports that China's growing economic might evokes.

Chinese exports to the US last year were nearly triple those of just five years ago. Chinese exports to the United States totaled US\$288 billion, while US exports to China totaled \$55 billion.

But according to the Cato Institute, Americans have never earned or spent a higher share of their income in the global economy than they do today. In 2006, what the US earned through exports and income from foreign investments abroad reached a record 15.6% of gross domestic product. Since China's entry to the World Trade Organization in 2001, US exports to this country have grown from \$19 billion to \$55 billion, an annual average growth of 24%.

Despite the din about how China is getting ahead with its undervalued yuan, real output of US factories has increased by 50% since China pegged its currency to the US dollar in 1994.

Despite the rhetoric of how ("substandard") Chinese products are stealing jobs from Americans rendered powerless by this unforeseen consequence of globalization, trade with China accounts for a mere 1% of annual job displacement in the US.

By Cato's estimates, at the most 150,000 jobs are lost in the US every year because of imports from China, compared with 15 million jobs that disappear annually in the US economy primarily as a result of technological changes and the consequent increase in productivity.

Productivity gains have actually taken a bigger toll on employment in China than in the US. A study by Alliance Capital Management LP in New York finds that while the number of manufacturing workers in the US dropped by 11% from 1995 through 2002, in China it dropped by 15%.

And in any case, Chinese imports in the US are mostly replacing imports from other Asian countries, not US products themselves. And manufacturing is no longer the foundation of the US economy as it begins to de-industrialize as part of a global economic shift.

But then again, while there is no market for reason, there is a big one for fear. That is why a Utah-based health-food company has launched a new label and ad blitz promoting its products as "China-free". This is despite the fact that FDA records show China is not even the leading source of contaminated imports to the US. India and Mexico have surpassed China in "refused food shipments" over the past year, while the leader in rejected candy imports happens to be Denmark.

Why pick on China?

It is difficult to ignore the xenophobic, and even racist, overtones in the attacks against China. When the products are made in the US, it is just the company that is in focus. When they are found to have a China connection, even if it is a US company getting its products made in China, it is the country that takes the lashes, as if the company has no obligation toward quality control.

Protectionism needs a popular idiom. Xenophobia needs a whipping boy. China scare is the product of this marriage of convenience. As the poster boy of economic success and the visions it inspires of trumping the almighty US economy, China is the obvious target when it comes to manufactures. Much of the same is directed at India when it comes to services, with outsourcing fears often vented by Western callers in torrents of racist abuses on Indian call-center workers.

This xenophobia is what lies at the heart of the current product panic in the US. If unchecked, and recklessly fanned, this has the potential of derailing the very process of globalization that developing countries are betting on for a better future. That is scarier than the China scare.

Debasish Roy Chowdhury is a senior editor with China Daily.

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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 at 941-730-0130 or Henry Zhu at hexiangzhu@hotmail.com or 941-758-2051.

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Two matching green-cushioned rocker recliner with glider foot stool. Like new. Originally \$110, now only \$50 each. Call Ed 966-0690

11. 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. Libing Huang libinh@linkingbt.com (248) 701-0878

Matters relating to GCAA Programs:
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Matters relating to membership and how to join
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Co-Director of Membership, Linda Fung elfunkkee@verizon.net; 941 918-8505

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

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