

Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCAA) Newsletter

Issue Sep-Oct 2008 - Released on September 05, 2008

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

URGENT NOTICE

Please join in a Volunteers Meeting at 4:30PM, one hour before our September social at Grand China Buffet (Tel: 341-9868) 3969 Cattlemen Rd., Sarasota, FL 34233. It is at the southwest corner of I-75 (Exit 207) and Bee Ridge, between Burlington Coat Factory and Home Depot. The volunteer meeting is to plan for our Mid-Autumn Festival on Saturday 9/13/08

Highlights of this issue

- 2008 GCAA / SCA Mid- Autumn Festival is taking place in Twin Lakes Park on September 13 from 4pm to 8pm. RSVP now! Read details under section 2.
- Recap of the magnificent Chinese Acrobatic Troupe performance under section 1.
- "Embracing Our Difference" A Juried Art Exhibit with Cash Awards. Read participation details under section 4.

1. Program Committee Reports

The Magnificent Chinese Acrobatic Troupe Performance and GCAA Dinner Hosting the Acrobats

by Irene Leung and Carolyn Bloomer

GCAA had a tremendous turnout of 70 members, families and friends attending the July 6th Sunday 4pm performance of the 马戏团Ma Xi Tuan at the Historic Asolo Theatre, located in the Ringling Museum Visitors Center. Most of the attending GCAA members came an hour before the performance in order to get good seats and we were able to be seated close to each other.

During the one- hour performance, Barry Zhang took all the great digital photos you see posted here on the web-site, and then prepared them overnight with lightning speed. Barry: Thanks a million!

We invited the acrobat troupe to be our guests after the show at our monthly dinner at Oriental Buffet. With 90 persons, we filled up the entire private room. After dinner we presented the interesting cultural exchange. Our curiosity covered many topics. Here we will share the priceless glimpses that resulted.

The Ma Xi Tuan troupe is based in Suzhou (Jiangsu Province), about 80 km west of Shanghai. Suzhou is one of the oldest cities in the Yangzi River Basin, dating back 2500 years to the Shang Dynasty. Many traditional Chinese performing arts originated in the Suzhou region, including acrobatics, 昆曲kunqu opera, ballad-singing, and 评弹pingtan story-telling. Today, Suzhou is one of China's most prosperous cities (per capita income is the 5th highest in the PRC).

The young acrobats – who range in age from 13 to 18 -- all have a great innate passion for the acrobatic arts. They were recruited for training around the age of 6-7, and were chosen on the basis of physical agility, health, general aesthetic features -- especially their faces and spirits. In the early years of training, the hopeless are weeded out, and the gifted are cultivated over years of rigorous training. It takes a minimum of three years training before an outstanding young acrobat can be qualified to perform in public.

All the Ma Xi Tuan acrobats had performed in public for at least seven years. Although the acrobats lead a nomadic life during their overseas performance, they were not as homesick as we thought they might be. They can easily communicate with their families with cost-effective high tech computer gadgets such as email, Internet phone, and Skype. The young acrobats' parents were extremely proud of their achievements and accomplishments. The young acrobats' middle-school education is maintained by a tutor who travels with them.

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Pearls About life

- Too often we don't realize what we have until it's gone. Too often we wait too late to say "Sorry, I was wrong".
- If you can not Love Yourself, How can other Love you? So find out why you are Lovable and Take some time to Love Yourself.
- Footprints on the sands are not made by sitting down.
- Be sure to appreciate everything you have got and be thankful for the little things in life that mean a lot.

The troupe is able to apply for visas for visitations to the U.S. and other countries because their troupe leader, Mr. Meng, is a U.S. Citizen living in Dallas. As long as an official invitation arrives and all paper work is in place, the troupe will be allowed to travel abroad. The Chinese government has been their main financial sponsor for travel.

These journeys are the best form of education in humanities, geography, and many diverse cultures – an opportunity only a few Chinese nationals are privileged to experience. The acrobats felt very proud to have such travelling experience to see the world. This is one of their biggest motivations for performing.

Although the boys and girls socialize while travelling, modern Chinese social standards consider them -- at age 13 to 18 -- under-aged for romance. Chinese young people are not encouraged to date until they are in their 20s, and they are encouraged to wait until age 25 to marry, when they will be more emotionally mature and financially secure.

When asked privately what had been the most interesting aspects of Sarasota the troupe has seen so far, six of the young men animatedly and excitedly replied that this is their closest encounter ever to Mother Nature! The troupe is staying at Sun 'n' Fun RV Park off Route 75. Every morning and evening they encounter wild rabbits, tortoises, birds, raccoons, squirrels and all kinds of exotic birds. The air is clean and fresh. They were able to get to know the sweet smells from the woods and forests. This experience, they said, they will never forget!

The area of China they come from, they said, is too populated – and there they could never have an opportunity to encounter friendly wild life in their natural habitat. They though this was their most life-changing experience.

At the end of dinner, the acrobats were presented with Victorian picture frames gift-wrapped individually for each one of the acrobats and a huge basket filled with luxury towels and body mists, shower gels and matching color luffas. The young girls in the troupe beamed with delight, at the anticipation of luxuriating in lovely bath products. They would keep the Ringling Museum postcards in the Victorian frames, they said, as a keepsake to remember this special dinner given by GCAA to honor them. They said they will never forget Sarasota, the lovely winter home of the big circuses in the U.S.

P.S. The performers all put on and take off their own make-up and wardrobe before and after each show. And: they tenderly care for the pigeons in their magic shows as pets.

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2. Schedule of GCAA activities:

2008 GCAA / SCA Mid-Autumn Festival

You are cordially invited to join us in the celebration of the annual Mid-Autumn Festival hosted jointly by The Gulfcoast Chinese American Association and the Sarasota Chinese Academy.

Time:
4:00pm- 8:00 pm, Saturday, September 13, 2008 (Chinese Lunar Calendar: August 14)

Location:
Twin Lakes Park, 6700 Clark Rd., Sarasota 941.316.1172 (Please refer to map at bottom page)

This Event is for:
GCAA members, SCA families and our friends from USCPFA (U.S. China People Friendship Assn.), SSCA (Sarasota Sister City Assn.), FCC (Families with Children from China)
Please kindly r.s.v.p. to gcaa.connections@gmail.com

Food:
a. Moon Cakes to be provided by GCAA
b. Potluck Style (please bring at least one covered dish for each family, whether it is an entrée, side dish or dessert. Please make sure to bring enough to share with those in your party)

- Why we learn to respect each human soul, we learn to respect ourselves.
- Don't blame the problem, but probe into the problem and you will find the solution.

Think

"If you think you are beaten, you are
If you think you dare not, you don't.
If you like to win, but you think you can't, It's almost certain you won't.

"If you think you'll lose, you're lost
For out of the world we find,
Success begins with a fellow's will-
It's all in the state of mind.

"If you think you are outclassed, you are,
You've got to think high to rise,
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.

"Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man,
But sooner or later the man who wins
Is the man who thinks he can. "

Volunteers needed

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

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

Solicitation for Articles and Reports

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

Sponsors

The GCAA Newsletter is sponsored in part by Feng Shui advisor-practitioner, Gigi Freeman, member of GCAA since 2005, now available for consultations for those interested. Gigi has been practicing Feng Shui for more than 20 years under the guidance of her Chinese-Filipino-Spanish father who was knowledgeable in Feng Shui principles. She has a certificate from the New York School of Feng Shui where she studied Classical Feng Shui focused on the Compass School and Form School. Feng Shui

- c. BBQ (Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided)
- d. Drinks (Sodas and water will be provided by SCA)

Fee:
 FREE for GCAA members and SCA families. Non- Members: \$10/person. Free for children under 10

Dress attire: Casual

Activities:

3:00 – 3:30 pm Site setup

3:30 – 5:30 pm

- a. Registration
- b. Games and sports (children and group)
- c. BBQ

5:30 -6:30 pm

- a. Welcome by GCAA president
- b. Dinner and music
- c. Raffle

6:30 – 8:00 pm

- a. Dance
- b. Karaoke
- c. Volleyball, soccer

Please Bring:

- Your family and friends
- Sun screen, insect repellent
- Your favorite games such as chess, playing cards, basketball, volleyball
- Your favorite dishes

*** We need plenty of volunteers to ensure a successful event. Please contact Sean Kuang xhkuang@gmail.com (941-538-8525) or June Shi floridajune@gmail.com (941-747-8822) if you are able to volunteer. Volunteers please show up by 3:30pm on the day of the event. Thank you! ***

Contact information:

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact:

Shi, Junhong	941-747-8822	floridajune@gmail.com
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Jason Liu	941-923-2959	liu5051@hotmail.com
Zhang, Barry		bzhang@wenbosystems.com
Zhang, Xueji	941-321-7903	zxj001us@yahoo.com

We welcome any additional suggestions, ideas and comments. We look forward to seeing you, your family and friends for a wonderful celebration of the Mid Autumn Festival on 9/13/08.

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Saturday 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

aims to balance the environment in your home or office, very much like an "acupuncture of your living or work space" to achieve harmony in your life, promote prosperity, success, good health, and good relationships. Gigi has lived most of her life in Asia and Mexico; she moved to Venice, Florida in 2004 with her Cuban-Canadian husband, Larry. You may call her at (941) 484-3917 or (941) 932-1642 for appointments.

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

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

GCAA acknowledges with sincere thanks the generous support and sponsorship of the Marco Polo Restaurant in our past annual CNY and MAF festivities. The Marco Polo International Buffet & Grill is located at 549 US Highway 41 Bypass North, Venice, FL 34292 in Bird Bay Plaza (near Big Lots), just south of the bifurcation of Business 41. Tel: 941-412-3988. When you visit the restaurant for their wide selection of seafood (including crawdad, oyster and crab) and Chinese, Mongolian, Japanese and Italian food, please say hello to the owners: Mr. & Mrs. Lau and let them know GCAA appreciates their support.

Classified Ads

OPEN POSITION

Chief Accounting Officer WANTED for Sarasota area. Position reports to the Senior VP of our National MRI Division. He or she will take an active role in strategic planning, financial analysis, policy development/deployment, problem resolution and financial communication to the Executive and Sr. Management teams with on-going financial analysis.

Position Requirements:

- CPA required
- Big 4 accounting experience strongly preferred
- MBA strongly preferred
- Previous experience preparing companies for initial public offerings
- 7+ years previous accounting management experience
- Experience in financial reporting, forecasting, modeling and analysis, cash flow management with a strong operational focus
- Extensive project finance experience
- Strong working knowledge of GAAP
- Demonstrated ability to manage multiple priorities

Contact Athena at 512 350 2596 or athena@elitistgroup.com

Rainbow Arts Center

September 20

Two of the Shaw Brothers most popular films of all times, digitally re-mastered and letter-boxed with easy to read white on black subtitles below the cinematic frame. .

1:30pm

Love Eterne梁山伯与祝英台(*Liang Shanbo yu Zhu Yingtai*)

Director, Li Hanxiang, Hong Kong, 1963. 122 min.

This黄梅戏 *huangmei* opera film tells the well-known Tang Dynasty tragedy of the Butterfly Lovers: Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai. Fifteen-year old Yingtai has a quick mind and a passion for learning – but can only continue her education by disguising herself as a male student. When Yingtai meets Shanbo, they find themselves soul-mates and become sworn brothers. Over the next three years, their feelings for each other deepen, and are complicated by Yingtai's disguise. This film is particularly notable because Shanbo is played by a wildly popular woman actress often cast in men's roles– thus adding one more layer to the plays on gender.

4:00pm

Princess Iron Fan 铁扇公主 (*Tieshan gongzhu*)

Director, He Menghua, Hong Kong, 1966. 93 min. Stars Cheng Peipei.

Second in a series of episodes from 西游记 *Journey to the West*, a mythologized narrative based on an actual quest in which a Tang Dynasty Buddhist monk, Tripitaka, traveled to India to bring back sacred texts. Accompanying the monk are Sandy (a disciple), Pigsy (a man with the snout and ears of a pig), and the Monkey King, aka 孙悟空 Sun Wukong -- perhaps the best known and best beloved character in centuries of Chinese popular culture, endowed with magical powers as well as a contrary and clever nature. This film depicts two separate episodes: the first involving Princess Iron Fan and the Ox Demon King – the second involving the White Boned Demon 白骨精 – a name later given to Chairman Mao's wife Jiang Qing, the leader of the Gang of Four in the Cultural Revolution (1966-76). Full of silliness and "camp" effects.

October 18

Two contemporary historical dramas dealing with the 1937 Nanjing massacre in which Japanese invaders killed over 300,000 Chinese civilians – an event which even today is absent from Japanese history books.

1:30 pm

Nanjing 1937 南京 1937

Director, Wu Ziniu, 1995. 110min.

A gripping drama of the brutal "rape of Nanjing" by the Japanese in 1937, focused on the fates of Chengxian, his heavily pregnant Japanese wife Reiko, her teenage daughter, and their young son after they flee Shanghai for what they tragically anticipate will be greater safety in Nanjing

4:00 pm

Tokyo Trial 东京审判 *Donjing shenpan*

Director, Gao Qunshu, 2005. 110 min.

An uneven historical film based on the circumstances and transcripts of the International Military Tribunal's 1946-48 trial in Japan of 28 Japanese officers for war crimes during World War II, including the Nanjing Massacre.

Films will also be shown on November 15 and December 6. Further schedule will be announced in the Nov-Dec issue of Newsletter.

Location: All films will be screened on the campus of Ringling College of Art and Design in Goldstein 5, located on the south side of Martin Luther King Boulevard south of the Selby Gallery, in area #22 on the campus map available on line at <http://www.ringling.edu/fileadmin/pdf/CampusMap.pdf> The map doesn't show any buildings in area #22, but actually 4 buildings are there in the Goldstein Village. Parking is available on either side of Selby Gallery, and in the parking lot just south of Goldstein Village, which can be entered from either Route 41 or Old Bradenton Road.

For more information feel free to contact Carolyn at cbloomer@ringling.edu, or phone 351-0995.

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Rainbow Arts Center has excellent professional teachers. Art lessons are provided in small classes according to the student's age, level of study, and learning standard. With new art materials and advance teaching methods, we concentrate on developing the student's interest and talent, as well as their skills and creativity. Art classes included Children's Drawing, Sketching, Cartooning, Oil Painting, Chinese Painting, Human Portraits, Fashion Illustration, Architecture, and Modern Illustration.

CLASSES:

1. Beginner class (Age 4-7) :Children drawing, Children sketch, Inspiration drawing, Water-paint.
2. Children class (Age 8-11) :Basic sketch, Art structure, Color drawings, Cartoons.
3. Teenage class (Age 12-17): Sketch, Oil painting, Art structure, Design techniques, Professional sketching techniques.
4. Adult class: Sketch, Oil painting, Watercolor, Chinese Painting, Fashion Illustration, Portraits, Architecture.

CLASS LECTURE:

Student starts drawing the basic form by copying sample Artworks. He/She will learn to capture the structure of the picture and understand the art techniques. Every session is one hour long, based on three parts: Structure breakdown, Drawing process, and Homework Analysis.

CLASS TUITION:

Each semester is \$450, fifteen classes, one class per week for fifteen continuous weeks. If student will be absent, please inform the school and reschedule the class. All fifteen classes must be attended within six months since registration. New student registration fee \$20 (covering teaching materials and art supplies).

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Mon, Wed, Fri: 4:30pm—5:30pm / 5:30pm—6:30pm / 6:30pm—7:30pm

INFO HOTLINE:

English: 646-915-7912

Chinese: 646-915-7905

e-mail: rainbowartscenter@yahoo.com

Yorkie puppies for adoption

I would love to send you my two Yorkie puppies for adoption, since I am travelling out of the country in two weeks time, I would need a pet lover with a good heart that would be able to afford vet-visits and dedications. Their names are Patti and Philly (female & male), both weighs are 1.7lbs and 1.6lbs each, and are currently 12 weeks old. AKC registered, with complete papers. Up to date on all shots/worming. Already potty trained with excellent temperaments. Also very good with children and other animals. If you are interested and want me to over night them to you via continental Air lines, kindly provide me with the following details.

-----Your proposed airport of delivery.

-----Your full names and home address (Not P.O.box)

-----Your day and night phone#.

-----Your fax #(If any)

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 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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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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3. Kudos and spotlight on our members and families

Kudos

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

In the interest of helping members to be better acquainted with each other, beginning with this issue, we will randomly feature profiles on several members. Be sure to check each issue to see if you or someone you know has been selected for the "Spotlight." Please submit capsules of about 250 words to elin@ingenious.com and Ms. Libin Huang libinh@linkingbt.com.

Spotlight on Our Members and Families

Woof! Woof! The son of Pat Amsel, GCAA and USCPFA member, was involved in the production of America's Greatest Dog program which premiered 7/10, 8.p.m. on CBS. Congratulations, Pat!

"Since my son is a vet, the only time you might catch sight of him is if and when a dog is injured and it is taken to the pet hospital for care. He was visible in last week's episode when a terrier needed care. From the looks of this coming episode's preview, there might be another need for a dog to go to the hospital. My

If you are interested in adopting these puppies, please contact Ray at Rayscout@gmail.com

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

First National Travel

I have a top notch travel agent I'd like to recommend: Toni Liang of FNTC (FIRST NATIONAL TRAVEL) 3166 CHESTNUT DR CONNECTOR SUITE 101 ATLANTA GA 30340 TELEPHONE: 678 530 0840 or 800-888-0208 FAX : 678 530 0768 Email: toni.liang@att.net

For sale

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.

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

son has a small moustache and neat little beard. Hope you all enjoy. It certainly is a funky program." --- Pat

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Janice and Ron Balazs

Ron Balazs was born in long island of New York City. At the age of three he started violin lessons with his father. Prior to Joining the Air Force at the age of twenty he was a scholarship student at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. Ron played the violin in the Air Force Special Service for three years. In 1954 he became a member of the First Violin Section of the Minneapolis/Minnesota Orchestra. Ron played with the Orchestra for thirty nine years. In addition to playing in the Orchestra he was also the Personnel Manager for twenty nine years. Ron met Jan, who was a music student at the University of Minnesota. They got married in 1956 and David was born on their first anniversary. In 1993 Ron and Jan retired to Sarasota where they bought a home in the Meadows. When Ron arrived in Sarasota he was invited to play in the Florida West Coast Symphony. He accepted the job and played for fifteen years. Ron now enjoys playing violin or viola with friends in String Quartets.

Jan was born in Minnesota; she became a very successful piano teacher. Presently in retirement she enjoys teaching piano to a small number of Asian children. Jan enjoys playing Mah-Jong and bridge. She loves to read and enjoys making doll clothes for her new six-year-old step grand-daughter.

David, who is the older son, works as an Investigator for a law firm. He is also a fine musician and works in the Minneapolis part time as a free lance Percussionist.

Loren, who is the younger son, works as an English Teacher in Xiamen, China. Prior to going to China Loren was Invoice Manger at a Minneapolis Chrysler Dealership. In 2004 he decided he wanted to teach English in China. He quitted his job and went back to college. In 2005 Loren accepted a job as an English teacher at the Harbin Institute of Technology, and later on moved to Xiamen and presently teaches English in Xiamen Senior Foreign Language School. After arriving in Xiamen he made contact with Chen Bilan through the Chinese Internet Dating Service. Bilan was divorced and has a daughter. She also has a good job as a sculptor.

This past February Jan went to China to take part in their son, Loren, and Bilan's wedding. Ron could not attend the wedding due to a bad heart condition. Jan had a wonderful time at the wedding with Bilan's family and friends.

Ron and Jan are looking forward to meeting new friends at the GCAA meetings.

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Mr. Jianhua Fei 费建华, Ms. Hong Ye 叶虹 and Phoebe Zhengqing Fei 费铮清

GCAA extends a warm welcome to the Fei family who are newcomers to Sarasota.

Arriving in the US two years ago, they lived in New York City and New Jersey each for one year before moving to Sarasota.

The parents both graduated from art schools in China. Jianhua was an animation director in China while his wife, Hong Ye, studied Chinese painting in school. Their daughter, Phoebe, has been studying art since high school and is a newly enrolled student at the Ringling College of Art and Design this year. The family has had a lot of experience teaching art drawing not only in China but also in New York and New Jersey. They will again be offering art lesson to the community. Please see the sidebar about Rainbow Art School for more details.

Until the Fei family met a few GCAA members, they had no friends in the area and were total strangers. Jianhua and Hong speak limited English, so they are especially eager to meet more Chinese friends. Let's reach out to them during MAF and make them feel at home. Jianhua can be reached on his mobile: 646-915-7906 and email: jianhuafei@hotmail.com while Phoebe can be reached at 646-915-7912 or arale_feifei@yahoo.com.cn

home is located near shopping, hospital, entertainment and excellent schools! Ask \$269,900 or lease at \$1400/month. Sarasota MLS Number: 361389; Manatee MLS Number: 562214. Please contact Henry Zhu at <mailto:hexiangzhu@hotmail.com> or 941-907-9178.

FOR SALE: Heavy duty towing hitch plus tongue, lock. Barely used. Cost over \$175, now only \$50. Trailer dolly. Used twice. Asking \$75. Call Sue 966-0690

Request for Help

Dear GCAA Members,

Out of extraordinary circumstances the Ma Xi Tuan Acrobatic Troupe manager contacted GCAA president, Dr. Xueji Zhang, for a special request to help one of its members. The troupe member must travel to the Chinese Consulate in Houston, TX to resolve passport issues but without a valid passport he cannot travel by air.

If you happen to know of anyone who plans to travel to and from Houston, TX by car in the very near future, please contact Xueji Zhang zxj001us@yahoo.com immediately. Thank you.

Who to contact about what

General info and past issues of Newsletters:
www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org for updates

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

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

Matters relating to GCAA Programs:
Co-Director, Dr. Sean Kuang, xkuang1@isu.edu, 941-538-8525
Co-Director, June Shi, floridajune@gmail.com

Matters relating to membership and how to join
Co-Director of Membership, Jian Wang jian@doctorhan.com 941-924-2278
Co-Director of Membership, Linda Fung elfunkkee@verizon.net; 941 918-8505

Matters relating to monthly socials
Irene Leung, Secretary irenel@post.com, 6462517714

Matters relating to sports programs
Jason Guan quanguoming@yahoo.com, 941-379-4180
Jason Liu Liu5051@hotmail.com, (941) 923-2959
GCAA website
www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org
Barry Zhang, WebMaster: bzhang@comcast.net
Asst. WebMaster John Zhu juntaozhu15@yahoo.com

4. Upcoming events & attractions

Sarasota Fruit & Nut Society will hold its annual Rare Fruit Tree Sale

By Dr. Ed Lin

on Sunday, September 28, 2008 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Phillippi Estate Park, 5500 S. Tamiami Trail at Constitution Blvd., Sarasota, Florida

From I-75 South take Exit 207 (Bee Ridge Rd) West to U.S. Hwy 41 South

From I-75 North take Exit 205 (Clark Rd/Hwy 72) West to U.S. Hwy 41 North

Phillippi Estate Park is on the West side of Tamiami Trl. (U.S. Hwy 41) at Constitution Blvd.

Arrive early for the best selection!!

Buy only grafted or air-layered fruit trees to ensure you get the right cultivar that will fruit early.

For example, a lychee tree grown from seedling can take 10 to 12 year to fruit. An air-layered lychee takes 2-3 years. Cultivars recommended by Dr. Ed Lin:

Mango (Glenn, Carrie, Keitt, Bailey's Marvel

Persimmon (Ichikiki Jiro, Matsumoto, Saijo

Atemoya (Gefner, 4826, Priestly)

Sapodilla (Alano, Tikal)

Tangerine (Honey Murcott, Ponkan)

Pomelo (Hirado butan)

Avocado (choquette)

Reliable nursery recommended by Dr. Lin: Treetop Nursery from Bokeelia/Ft. Myers area

Interested in vegetable gardening? Come to the Sarasota Fruit & Nut Society monthly meeting at 7PM on Wednesday 9/10/08 to listen to an agricultural expert, Wayne Clifton. For directions:

<http://www.sfns.net/aboutus.html>

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A Juried Art Exhibit with Cash Awards "Embracing Our Difference"

Submission deadline - January 12, 2009

The mission of Embracing Our Differences is to use art as a catalyst for creating awareness and promoting the value of diversity, the benefits of inclusion and the significance of the active rejection of hatred and prejudice.

Embracing Our Differences will be displayed throughout the month of April 2009 at Island Park along Sarasota's beautiful bay front. The exhibit will contain 39 bill-board sized (16 feet by 12 feet high) artworks. An additional 6 honorable mentions will be displayed. The exhibit will again be displayed in North Port, Florida throughout the month of May 2009. Since 2004, more than 550,000 visitors have viewed the exhibit.

We invite you to participate in creating a society that is more inclusive for all by submitting your work reflecting the theme of "Embracing Our Differences".

WHAT IS THE THEME?

Artists are asked to submit their interpretation of the theme "Embracing Our Differences" in the required format detailed in the [2009 Call to Artists submission form](#).

WHO CAN ENTER?

Artists, photographers, professionals, amateurs, teachers, students - all ages - everyone can participate. You may submit more than one entry; however, no more than two images per artist will be chosen for

Community Relations

Director of: Dr. Carolyn Bloomer, cmbloomer@comcast.net (941) 351-0995

Other issues:

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

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Write "Unsubscribe to GCAA Newsletter" in subject box. Your email address will be promptly removed from the list of ALL GCAA newsletters and other electronic notifications.

Featured Links

Chinese American Heroes:

<http://www.chineseamericanheroes.org/>

Here visitors can read about great scientists and seemingly "ordinary" Chinese Americans who are anything but.

I am particularly touched to read about Betty Ann Ong who made such crucial contribution to the 911 Commission through her immense courage. What an incredible lady! She makes all of us proud.

--- Edward Lin

display. National and international submissions are encouraged.

WHAT IS THE CRITERIA?

Final selections will be chosen based on artistic excellence in reflection of the theme "embracing our differences". The artwork will also be evaluated on how effectively it will read outdoors when enlarged to billboard size - 16 feet wide by 12 feet high. Artists are encouraged to use bold saturated colors and strong lines. Final selections will be made by a panel of professional artists, curators and art professionals. There is no submission fee.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

Submission deadline - January 12, 2009

Judging will take place during February 2009. Only artists selected will be notified. Winning selections will be listed on our website, www.EmbracingOurDifferences.org, in late March 2009. "Best In Show" winners will be announced in late March 2009. The event will open on Sunday, March 30, 2009. People's Choice Award will be announced in May 2009.

CASH AWARDS

Best In Show (Adult): A single \$1,000.00 cash award will be made to one submission deemed "Best In Show" (adult category) by our judges. College students will be judged in this category.

Best In Show (Student): A \$1,000.00 cash award will be made to one submission deemed "Best In Show" (student category) by our judges. Entries for this category must be received from students' high school-age and below. The award money will be given directly to the student's school.

People's Choice A \$1,000.00 cash award will be presented at the end of the exhibit to the submission which receives the most votes from visitors to the Sarasota exhibit.

You may also visit www.EmbracingOurDifferences.org for more information.

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5. Feature Articles and Reports

[SSCA Calls For Siming Committee Members](#)

SARASOTA SISTER CITY: Siming District (Xiamen)

By Dr. Carolyn Bloomer

October 10 will mark the one-year anniversary of the opening of Sarasota's official Sister City relationship with the Siming District of Xiamen. During October and November Cliff Roles' regular radio broadcast on WSRQ (1220 AM) will feature interviews with Sister Cities directors. The Siming Committee, represented by Dr. Carolyn Bloomer and Irene Leung, will be broadcast in mid-November.

During this first year we have already enjoyed some significant developments. A fourth-grade student from Xiamen's Da Tong Elementary School was a winner in the annual Embracing Our Differences banner project exhibited at Waterfront Park in March, at the same time that an 11-person high-ranking official delegation from Xiamen, including the Deputy Mayor, visited Sarasota.

The Siming Business Subcommittee, chaired by Huang Libin, has created a 5-year plan for promoting various avenues for business and business-education exchange between Xiamen and Sarasota. The Subcommittee includes representatives from the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council. In October Irene Leung will visit Xiamen as a special envoy, and after her return we plan a special event in November to share findings with the Sarasota business community.

Sarasota Art Center has offered two Xiamen artists a scholarship to attend a workshop in February 2009, for which we are currently receiving applications. In addition, the Professional/Scientific/Medical

Subcommittee, under the leadership of Dr. Raymond Young and Dr. David Harralson, has generated a proposal for a canopy walk designed by Dr. Meg Lohman at Xiamen's Shi Wan Botanical Garden; this subcommittee is also exploring possibilities for funding research scientists from Mote Marine to visit Xiamen University's College of Oceanography and Environmental Science. Dr. Carolyn Bloomer has facilitated the participation of Ringling College students majoring in Computer Animation, Graphic and Interactive Communication, Photography and Digital Imaging, and Digital Film to participate in an international multimedia exhibition to be held in Xiamen's new Cultural Center. Siming (Xiamen) will be invited to participate in an 8-Sister City photography exhibition planned for 2009.

Ever since the opening of our Sister City relationship, numerous GCAA members have generously volunteered to translate for visiting delegations and for e-mail and ground-mail communications with Xiamen.

Call for Participants

SSCA's Siming Committee, chaired by Dr. Carolyn Bloomer, has ten Subcommittees:

Business /Tourism: Chair Huang Libin

Education /Youth: Chair Archie McKee

Hospitality: Chair Duane Finger

Professional / Scientific / Medical: Co-chairs Dr. Raymond Young, Dr. David Harrelson

Performing Arts

Sports

Technology Transfer: Chair, Dr. Edward Lin

Urban Planning / Public Administration

Visual Arts: Chair Glad Elias

Women/Social Issues

Each subcommittee needs at least one member who can speak Chinese (for telephone communication), write Chinese (for e-mail communication), and bridge the cultural gap. Some subcommittees (e.g. Sports) are in need of leadership (Sarasota schools already expressed interest in exchange; the success of the Beijing Olympics will intensify this interest). The Hospitality subcommittee needs to find local families who could provide home-stays for certain visitors (e.g. the Xiamen artists coming in February).

I warmly invite GCAA members to join a subcommittee that interests you. You will be able to make a valuable contribution to fostering special relationships with people and organizations in our Sister City. Carolyn is also looking for a Chinese-speaking Vice City Director to succeed Wei Qinghong. To volunteer or to discuss possibilities, please contact: cbloomer@ringling.edu or phone 351-0995.

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GCAA PROTESTED DEROGATORY AND IGNORANT ARTICLE ABOUT CHINA

On July 14, 2008, *Morgan Stinemetz*, a sailing columnist for the *Herald Tribune* wrote a derogatory article about China and the upcoming Olympics.

GCAA member Dale Robbins took a very proactive approach in protesting this article to the newspaper and alerted Drs. Bloomer and Lin. A call to action was announced by Dr. Lin and several GCAA members participated in a write-in, including Helen Pollak, Una Quan, Drs. Carolyn Bloomer, Nancy Mundorf and Edward Lin. So as not to make this Newsletter unduly long, only the two letters published by the Tribune are reproduced here.

Polluted sailing water not the only reason to avoid trip to Olympics

Published Monday, July 14, 2008 at 4:30 a.m.

by Morgan Stinemetz

Maybe I'm just too conservative in my old age, but the mere thought of going to the Olympics in China this summer brings up mental images I care not to contemplate. Some of the images arrived via the Internet and they had to do with signage that the Chinese were erecting, in English, about spitting, defecating, urinating and other functions that our society deems unworthy of explicitly outlining on the walls of public buildings.

What I saw was something like: "IT IS EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN TO LOOK INTO YOUR

HANDKERCHIEF AFTER BLOWING NOSE IN THERE."

There were no signs stenciled in paint on buildings that actually said that, but you get the idea. The syntax of our language was mangled by the Chinese with great variety and enthusiasm. It is as if all the people who had been paid a pittance to write up the awful operating instructions that accompanied cameras and electronics imported from Asia for the last five decades were gathered in one place and given the responsibility of creating instructions concerning bodily functions for Olympic spectators.

Another series of photographs that I received showed Chinese food vendors hawking their wares in outdoor markets. What I remember seeing convinced me that the people who live in China have some of the most bizarre food tastes imaginable. If your preferences for a meal run to fried cockroaches, stewed rats, poached snakes, meat from cats and dogs and the occasional eel, then you'd have a great gustatory time at the summer Olympics. Not this guy, though. Escargot I like. Shad roe I enjoyed as a kid, but that was a long time ago.

That's just one more reason not to go.

So, considering the above as a baseline, it may come as no shock to you to find out that waters around Qingdao, which is on the coast of Shandong province (now that really pinpoints it well, doesn't it?) have been plagued by a large algae bloom that began in early June. Qingdao is the locale for Olympic sailing this summer. My understanding is that the winds at Qingdao are spotty, inconsistent and come from every quarter. On top of that, tidal current is a major factor at the sailing venue. And don't forget the swells that come in from the ocean. It's as if the people who were in charge of Olympic signage also got to select the site for Olympic sailing.

China has a lot of people. That's good. A lot of those people, about 3,000 of them accompanied by about 400 boats, were mobilized to clean up the algae. The algae appeared as a bright green bloom. Some workers loaded algae onto boats. Others scooped the stuff up by the armful and put it in sacks. The stuff was thick enough so that a sailboat that got trapped in it would just stop moving. The smaller the boat, the more quickly it would stop.

And what causes the algae blooms, you ask? Excessive pollution. China's waterways and coastlines are severely contaminated by industrial pollution, farm chemicals and domestic sewerage. Twenty-five percent of the population in China has no access to safe drinking water. Despite promises from the Chinese government to fix everything, the situation is getting worse. The algae at Qingdao has not been ascertained to be perilous, yet can produce dangerous toxins and, if ingested, can cause vomiting, respiratory failure and, on rare occasions, death.

Those of us who live around Sarasota, know what a joy [red tide](#) is to experience. You know, the stench of dead fish littering the beaches and the coughing fits [red tide](#) fumes engender are sometimes simply overpowering. If our local politicians had been on their toes, they could have possibly had the Gulf of Mexico off Lido Key designated an Olympic Sailing Training Site during the last epidemic of [red tide](#). It's too late, though. The opportunity has gone. It was just wishful thinking.

In my opinion, the Olympic sailing community should demand some parity at this summer's Olympics. They could request that all the track and field events be held at a former nuclear test site.

This is a great country, of course. We can send our best sailors halfway around the world to sail where they may have to compete in polluted waters and could get sick as a result of it. Ordinary American citizens cannot go to Cuba, though. It's not allowed. There are Communists down there.

Sailing column is irresponsible

http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20080717/LETTERS/807170413/2163/opinion05&title=Sailing_column_is_irresponsible

Published: Thursday, July 17, 2008 at 5:50 a.m.

Where was the journalistic responsibility when Morgan Stinemetz's tasteless column of July 14 crossed the sports editor's desk? Stinemetz's gross ignorance of China and his invocation of racist mythologies

harking back to 19th century fears of the yellow peril are truly shocking in a 21st-century newspaper.

Intelligent Internet users recognize that numerous sites capitalize on sensationalized, often fabricated representations. Anyone gullible enough to believe them should not be writing newspaper columns.

I am a cultural anthropologist who regularly spends time in China and who speaks and reads Chinese, so I can tell you the Internet pictures of "street food" are, for the most part, cherry-picked and inaccurately identified, and the "Chinglish" examples are purposefully atypical and bizarre. Beijing has embarked on a massive project to standardize menus and signage in preparation for the Olympics.

Consider how Chinese respond to mangled Chinese tattooed on American bodies, the Chinese word for "love" displayed upside down on a car bumper, shirts sporting Chinese writing in mirror-image, video titles printed upside-down, travel companies using Taiwanese fonts advertising trips to mainland China. While committed to economic development, China has a national policy pushing renewable energy, reforestation and green building design.

Sixty percent of the world's carbon-reduction projects are in China (Foreign Policy magazine, March-April 2008).

Carolyn M. Bloomer

The writer is on the liberal arts faculty of the Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota. She resides in Sarasota.

This story appeared in print on page A10_OPED

Columnist does a disservice to Chinese-Americans

By DR. EDWARD LIN GUEST COLUMNIST

http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20080717/COLUMNIST13/807170408/2050/sports&title=Columnist_does_a_disservice_to_Chinese_Americans

Published: Thursday, July 17, 2008 at 7:20 a.m.

Morgan Stinemetz's column of July 14, "Polluted sailing water not the only reason to avoid trip to Olympics," began: "Maybe I'm just too conservative in my old age, but the mere thought of going to the Olympics in China this summer brings up mental images I care not to contemplate."

Alas, what followed soon revealed Mr. Stinemetz not to be too conservative but rather too ignorant and bigoted to bother with the truth. He urged readers to conjure up images of things in China that he himself admitted he had not seen or even read to be so. Drawing liberally from unidentified Internet sources that he reasonably ought to know are either untrue or only highlight rare extremes, he proceeded to embellish and multiply myths about China in his writing, which not only reflected poorly on Mr. Stinemetz, but also on the newspaper that irresponsibly approved this ill-concocted piece of "journalism."

Is the world to believe that America is a nation of polygamists just because they exist in parts of the country? Or that mountain oysters, squirrel brains and chitterlings reflect mainstream tastes?

If Mr. Stinemetz had limited his criticism to the coastal pollution and sailing conditions, that'd be one thing. However, he ranted about many other issues in a biased and broad-brush approach that merits a rebuttal.

If the United States had the crushing population and the manufacturing and agricultural burdens that China had, it is very doubtful we'd have done as well in terms of environmental pollution and waste reduction. Are we so quick to forget the decimation of fish in the Great Lakes, the burning of the Cuyahoga River from oil slicks, Love Canal and numerous other toxic waste dumps, dead zones in our Gulf waters from fertilizer overuse (one nearing the size of the state of Massachusetts)?

We are the only developed nation that exports its hazardous electronics waste (mostly to China). As a nation comprising 5 percent of the world population but consuming 30 percent of its resources, with a per capita carbon footprint 12 times that of China, perhaps we Americans might indulge in a little introspective humility before pointing a finger at another nation.

According to the Center for American Progress, 37 million Americans live below the poverty line (as of April 2007), an increase of 5 million since 2000. In contrast, the International Monetary Fund in 2006 credited China with pulling 300 million people out of poverty in the past two decades and adding \$2 trillion to the global GDP. According to the report: This is "like adding a country the size of Portugal every year to the world economy, creating as many new jobs each year as Australia's total labor force, and eradicating poverty from Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zambia combined."

The inability of our government to do justice to Hurricane Katrina victims three years post-disaster speaks volumes. China is far from perfect or blameless, but for a not-so-wealthy nation that has had to deal with socio-economic and environmental problems of far greater magnitude than those of any other nation in history, it has done remarkably well and deserves fair recognition instead of ignorant, off-base condemnation.

On behalf of the Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association, I express our dismay and profound disappointment that both Mr. Stinemetz and the Herald-Tribune have failed the community in their journalistic responsibility to present balanced and factual information.

This story appeared in print on page A10_OPED

Dr. Edward Lin is chairman of the board and past-president of the Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association, a nonprofit whose mission is to provide educational, cultural service and charitable support to the community. Web site: www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org

Editor's note: Please see statement in today's sports section.

Note to readers regarding sailing column

Published: Thursday, July 17, 2008 at 7:21 a.m.

A column Monday on the front page of the Sports section, "Polluted sailing water not the only reason to avoid trip to Olympics," included comments that had nothing to do with sailing or China's Qingdao Olympic sailing venue. The comments do not reflect the opinion of the Herald-Tribune and should not have been published.

Scott Peterson, Sports Editor

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Ever wonder why starting a few years ago, you could no longer apply for a visa to China by mail and instead have to rely on a travel agency near one of the Chinese Consulates to apply for the visa in person? Recently, a GCAA Chinese American member related that in order to apply for a visa to go back to China to visit his parents, he had to obtain a "letter of invitation" from his parents in China as supporting document required for the visa application. Sounds like absurd red tape, right?

Well, it turns out the origin of all this is the actions of our own US government. In international politics, reciprocity is a common practice. If Nation A imposes certain requirement upon the citizens of Nation B, it is common practice for Nation B to then impose the same requirements upon citizens of Nation A. It used to be very simple, fast and cheap to apply for a tourist visa to China. However, after the US imposed fee hikes and in-person application requirements upon Chinese tourists, China "reciprocated" with similar rules (this was explained on the Chinese Embassy website as of three years ago).

Read below the personal account of what another US citizen and his Chinese spouse had to endure in dealing with the US Consulate in China. The US has had a long history of discriminatory practices against Chinese immigrants, including the Chinese Exclusionary Act (forbidding any Chinese immigration into the US, barring Chinese men from applying for visas for their own spouse and children to join them in the US) and barring the testimony of any Chinese in an American court, thus effectively stripping them of any and all protection from civil and criminal wrong. This gave rise to the derogatory phrase, "A Chinaman's chance" to describe having no chance at all of success. To read more about the civil injustice suffered by Chinese immigrants in the US, see <http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/courses/ed311/kafai/Team%202/Chineselmmigration>

GCAA plans to develop a film and documentary library, among which will be the excellent 3-part PBS Bill

Moyers program, BECOMING AMERICAN: THE CHINESE EXPERIENCE. We anticipate its availability starting September 15, 2008.

US Consulate General Abusive in China

The following letter to USA Today is from Loren Balazs, whose parents, Jan and Ron Balazs are GCAA members. Loren describes the inconsiderate and inexcusable way in which the US Consulate General treated his Chinese spouse. It all the more lends credence to innumerable reports of shoddy treatment Chinese citizens receive when trying to apply for visas to come to the States. Is this any way to spread goodwill or represent the American people or government?

From: bpdogs@hotmail.com

Date: Thu, 7 Aug 2008 03:18:59 -0500

Hi,

It's Loren Balazs from Xiamen China. I have a story I am wondering if one of your reporters might be interested. Since China is all the news recently, maybe there is a printable story here.

It involves the absolutely ridiculous immigration policy of the U.S. towards Chinese citizens.

I am married to a Chinese citizen. My dad has heart problems and could not attend the wedding in February. Since I don't plan on moving back to the U.S. until about 2 years, my dad wanted to meet my wife before because he is afraid he might pass away before we move back to the U.S.

The first interview she had with the U.S. consulate for a non-immigrant tourist visa in Guangzhou (all Chinese citizens living in Fujian province have to go there for their visa) lasted all of 3 minutes because my wife did not have my passport to show. The website and talking to agents over the phone never mentioned they needed to see my passport. I was in the building with it, but I was not allowed to go in the interview and my wife could not go get me to get the passport. So a month later and another \$130 visa fee she had another interview. This one lasted all of about 10 minutes until she was again refused. She asked the interviewer why and he said she did not meet the burden of proof to prove she would go back to China. She then asked for his name which he refused to give.

Here is the proof that was provided to the U.S. Consulate that did not meet the burden of proof:

1. My passport.
2. My Foreign Expert Certificate from Chinese government showing I have a job in China at the Xiamen Foreign Language School through next year.
3. Chinese wedding certificate issued by Chinese government and copy.
4. Original contract with school showing I am teaching during the 2008-2009 school year.
5. Notarized letter from my dad showing he is paying for all expenses.
6. Letter from my dad's doctor telling why my dad can't travel to China himself.
7. Documents from Cathay Pacific showing 2 paid roundtrip tickets between Xiamen and Los Angeles.
8. Documents from Northwest Airlines showing 2 paid roundtrip tickets between Los Angeles and Sarasota. (Where my parents live.)
9. Stamped letter from my wife's company showing she has a job.
10. Birth certificate of my wife's daughter who was staying in China.
11. Bank statement showing money held in cd's, savings account, and stocks in my wife's name.

What's really interesting is a manager of a travel agency that I teach English at had won an all expense paid trip to the U.S. through Japan Airlines. When she went to apply for a visa she was asked three questions. Did she have a child? Yes, she has a 6 year old son. Does she own property? Yes. Her and her husband own two apartments. What was her income? She didn't tell me other than it is above the average income of Xiamen. She was turned down after just those three questions.

Here are the questions asked of my wife:

1. Why are you going to the U.S.? To see father in-law.
2. Do you have your husband's passport? Yes.
3. Do you have your wedding certificate? Yes.
4. What do you do? Sculptor.

5. Where do you work.? Company in Fuzhou. (I forget the name.)
6. Can you speak English? Yes (Since when did THAT matter to visit the U.S.?!)
7. Do you have any relatives in the America? Yes, in-laws.

I have been told that because many illegal Chinese in America are from Fujian province, it's hard for those from Fujian to get visa's. Also, I have been told that the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai approves many more visas than Guangzhou. Regardless, it's absolute stupid that my own wife can't visit America with me! We plan on filing for an immigrant visa later next year to move in two years.

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OCA CRITICIZES LPGA'S DECISION TO REQUIRE PLAYERS TO SPEAK ENGLISH

CONTACT

Sarah Smith | Communications Manager
202 223 5500 | ssmith@ocanational.org

WASHINGTON DC — OCA, a national organization serving the Asian Pacific American (APA) community, criticizes the Ladies Professional Golf Association's (LPGA) decision to require all players to pass an English language proficiency exam or receive suspension.

"One does not need to speak English in order to play professional sports in this country," said OCA National President Ginny Gong. "We play sports to unify groups, not to divide. This would suggest that someone like Lance Armstrong needs to be proficient in French in order to participate in the Tour de France."

The LPGA proposed the policy which requires all participating golf players with at least two years seniority to be proficient in English starting in 2009. Players from countries outside of the United States have been leading tournaments in recent years, with golfers from Mexico, Taiwan and Korea winning the last five major championships.

Many in the APA community feel that forcing senior players to speak English during tournaments promotes intolerance, particularly given the discriminatory treatment of female players on golf courses in the past.

"It is outrageous that the LPGA would consider a decision that prohibits certain players from the chance to compete knowing all the struggles women have gone through in order to be recognized as equals in the sport," said Michael Lin, executive director of OCA National Center.

Founded in 1973 as the Organization of Chinese Americans, OCA is a national organization dedicated to the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States.

BREAKING NEWS: In the afternoon of September 5, 2008, in response to protests from various Asian American groups, LPGA rescinded its "English Language rule" which was believed to be primarily targeted towards Korean players who number over 40 on the current LPGA tour.

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6. Helpful info and articles of interest

Save Energy and Get the Best Deal in Air Conditioning

By Dr. Ed Lin

I recently learned a hard lesson and paid dearly for it. After spending a good amount of time reviewing the subject and getting competitive bids from 4 AC companies, I'm passing the info to you and hope it'll benefit you.

Here in the hot and humid FL climate, there is hardly a major home appliance that works harder for you than your AC system. When I had my home built, I insisted on quality and therefore had two Trane (at that

time, considered the top brand) central AC units installed along with two variable-speed handlers for quietness and extra-humidity removal capabilities. I did not pay much attention to CFM airflow studies, accepting the contractor's assurance that I was getting two very powerful systems and my satisfaction was assured.

At that time, I mistakenly equated a central AC system to the system found in a refrigerator, since the two work on pretty much the same principle. Alas, I failed to recognize that the (typically reliable and long lasting) refrigerator works in an indoor controlled environment while the other sweats in the sweltering heat and humidity of the FL outdoors. So, when offered a 10-year extended warranty on my AC for about \$800 in 1998, I foolishly turned it down. I did not know that the commonly shoddy workmanship in FL contractors could severely shorten the life of my AC system. And that, of course, was exactly what happened.

My AC system was supposed to last easily 15 years. However, by the 7th year, I started to experience loss of the R-22 refrigerant. This ozone-depleting refrigerant is due to be phased out in January 2010 and its high cost is already escalating sharply. The rust and corrosion in the condenser coil (from improper installation, mismatch of both number and size of ducts led to water accumulation in the air handler and rusted out the equipment well ahead of its expected life. In the last two years, my repair bills have exceeded the cost of the original extended warranty which I was foolish enough to not buy. The unit had to be repeatedly recharged at a cost of \$200-\$300 each time or I could spend \$2000 to replace the condenser coil in my air handler, which is now 10 years old. Having a costly new part in an otherwise aging system with more breakdowns expected simply did not make sense.

To make a long story short, after noticing that my AC system was running most of the time but delivering worse and worse performance, I finally threw in the towel on further repairs and started to look for the best new system out there. And also to find a service company better than All American Heating and Cooling, the one that did the original installation and subsequent repairs. The first thing I turned to was one of several fliers that had come into the mail offering me an AC system tune up for a low price, among the offers was a "zero-risk" trial of their equipment for an entire year. "If you are not satisfied, we will remove the equipment and you pay nothing! And we'd pay you \$150 just to try our risk free offer" the letter extolled. At least two of these company's had a 4-letter company name such as LPAC or --AC. So, I called one of them (I seem to recall LPAC).

"How much do you charge for each pound of R-22 refrigerant?" I asked.

"That depends"

"Depends on what?"

"Depends on the service person that comes out."

"You mean the company does not have a fixed price for this supply?"

"No, each of the guys set their price, but they'll be reasonable with you."

I knew right away from this that this outfit is nothing but a referral agency for AC service companies. They man the phones and dispatch whoever is available and get a referral fee. That's why they could not quote me a firm price on a basic item as R-22! There'll be no quality control and I'll have to chase after two entities if anything goes wrong! I then did my own research and found that the Lennox XP-19 Signature series heat pump (up to 19 SEER) received the highest reviews for their exceptional quietness and efficiency. Trane had fallen behind in recent years and has only one model using new R-410A refrigerant. Most Carrier models rust out in under 10 years and York is noisy as heck.

There are many Lennox dealers, but only some of them have NATE-certified-technicians designation. I then obtained bids from all the NATE dealers in the area and was surprised at the great variation in pricing, differing by thousands of dollars! (I also needed revision duct work to ensure that my heat pump, air handler and ductwork are all matched properly for optimum performance. The company that came in the lowest was Service Experts (Tel: 358-7842. The Service Manager's name is Scott Bouthiller and his mobile number is: 809-5631. It turns out Service Experts is actually owned by Lennox and is the factory authorized repair representative. Scott and his team did a superb job at a great price. Current rebates from FPL and Lennox reduced the cost by about \$1800.

Because only one of my two AC units needed immediate replacement, I was in a unique position to compare the cooling of one side of the house against the other. In the past, I set both of my thermostats at 78 degrees for cooling. With the Lennox XP-19 which comes with a touch-screen thermostat that includes separate settings for temperature and humidity, I could set my thermostat for 81 degrees but a

45% humidity. The heat pumps runs at a slower energy efficient speed to remove the humidity in the house, resulting in a greater level of comfort than the other side of my house with a thermostat accurately set to 78 degrees. The difference is readily apparent. And since there is less of a temperature gradient between the inside of the house than the outside, I lose less energy to heat transfer across the enormous amount of glass surface in my house. For the months of May 21-June 20, my electric bill was \$308 when one of the two AC units was virtually broken. My main AC unit was replaced on 6/19 and for the month June 20-July 21, my bill dropped to \$187 and was \$205 for the month after that. This time, I made sure I got a 10-year extended warranty for under \$800. It's a good investment that'll pay for itself.

If you decide to replace your AC system, get several bids from NATE-certified Lennox dealers. Service Experts is a good bet and I highly recommend them. Mention "GCAA" and receive a \$100 additional discount. Their service technician, James, is very knowledgeable. Ask for him by name, if you can.

By the way, after I had my system installed, I received a distressed call from a resident in my community named Peggy. Her husband had been suffering from cancer and for the past year they've had nothing but problems with repeated failures of their AC system (and burst pipes from pin-hole leaks—but that's another story). They had paid \$15,000 for their AC system just last year (about twice as much as mine). The AC company two months ago finally put in a whole new system (purportedly an even better upgrade) but the fuse keeps blowing and the AC company told her to just go out to the breaker box to reset the fuse every time it blows. Finally in desperation she called me for help.

Following my advice, she called Service Experts and they found so many burnt wires from faulty wiring that there was a serious fire hazard. They installed a Lennox XP-19 new system with 10-year warranty for under \$7000. With a written statement from Service Experts listing all the deficiencies and defects in installation, Peggy is now suing the first AC company to recover her cost. The name of that company? LPAC.

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Chemical in Plastic Is Connected to Health Problems in Monkeys

By [Lyndsey Layton](#)

Washington Post Staff Writer

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<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/03/AR20080903033397.html?hpid=topnews>

Researchers at the Yale School of Medicine have linked a chemical found in everyday plastics to problems with brain function and mood disorders in monkeys -- the first time the chemical has been connected to health problems in primates.

The study is the latest in an accumulation of research that has raises concerns about bisphenol A, or BPA, a compound that gives a shatterproof quality to polycarbonate plastic and has been found to leach from plastic into food and water.

The [Yale](#) study comes as federal toxicologists yesterday reaffirmed an earlier draft report finding that there is "some concern" that bisphenol A can cause developmental problems in the brain and hormonal systems of infants and children.

"There remains considerable uncertainty whether the changes seen in the animal studies are directly applicable to humans, and whether they would result in clear adverse health effects," John R. Bucher, associate director of the National Toxicology Program, said in a statement. "But we have concluded that the possibility that BPA may affect human development cannot be dismissed."

In a study published in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#), the Yale team exposed monkeys to levels of bisphenol A deemed safe for humans by the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) and found that the chemical interfered with brain cell connections vital to memory, learning and mood.

ad icon

"Our findings suggest that exposure to low-dose BPA may have widespread effects on brain structure and function," the authors wrote. In contrast to earlier research on rodents, the Yale researchers studied monkeys to better approximate the way BPA might affect humans.

"Our goal was to more closely mimic the slow and continuous conditions under which humans would normally be exposed to BPA," said study author Csaba Leranth, a Yale professor of obstetrics, gynecology

and reproductive sciences and of neurobiology.

BPA, in commercial use since the 1950s, is found in a wide variety of everyday items, including sports bottles, baby bottles, food containers and compact discs. One recent federal study estimated that the chemical is found in the urine of 93 percent of the population.

The [American Chemistry Council](#), a trade group, maintained yesterday that "there is no direct evidence that exposure to bisphenol A adversely affects human reproduction or development."

The National Toxicology Program, part of the [National Institutes of Health](#), has no power to regulate BPA, but its findings are used by other federal agencies such as the [Food and Drug Administration](#) and the EPA, which set safe exposure limits for chemicals.

The FDA plays a critical regulatory role because it regulates the compound's use in plastic food containers, bottles, tableware and the plastic linings of canned foods.

The agency last month issued a draft report that declared BPA safe for use in food packaging and bottles, based largely on the strength of two studies, both funded by industry.

"Unfortunately the regulatory agency charged with protecting the public health continues to rely on industry-based research to arrive at its conclusions, rather than examining the totality of scientific evidence," [Rep. John D. Dingell](#) (D-Mich.), chairman of the [House Energy and Commerce Committee](#), said in a statement yesterday. His committee is investigating the FDA's handling of BPA.

U.S. manufacturers make about 7 billion pounds of BPA annually. A ban would affect thousands of businesses and perhaps billions of dollars in profit for its largest manufacturers.

Canada has said it intends to ban the use of BPA in baby bottles, and state and federal lawmakers have proposed a variety of BPA bans. [Sen. Charles E. Schumer](#) (D-N.Y.) is sponsoring a bill to prohibit BPA from children's products, while [Rep. Edward J. Markey](#) (D-Mass.) wants to bar it from all food and drink packaging.

"The FDA's assurances of BPA's safety are out of step with mounting scientific evidence to the contrary," Markey said yesterday. "For the sake of the health of every man, woman and child in America, we should ban BPA in food and beverage containers, especially because there are alternatives already available."

Several major retailers, including [Wal-Mart](#) and Toys R Us, have pledged to drop BPA products next year while some makers of baby bottles and sports bottles have switched to BPA-free plastic.

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7. The Funnies

You don't stop laughing because you grow old; You grow old because you stop laughing.

[Moving To A New Office](#)

The orthopedic surgeon I work for was moving to a new office and his staff was helping transport many of the items.

I sat the display skeleton in the front of my car, his bony arm across the back of my seat. I hadn't considered the drive across town. At one traffic light, the stares of the people in the car beside me became obvious, and I looked across and explained, "I'm delivering him to my doctor's office."

The other driver leaned out of his window. "I hate to tell you, lady," he said, "but I think it's too late!"

Provided by Linda Fung:

-- I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up

and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

THE SENILITY PRAYER : Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

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