

**Press Bulletin
For Immediate Release**

**Gulfcoast Chinese American Association and
Sarasota Chinese Academy
Host Chinese New Year Celebration**

**Chinese Dance, Music, Kung Fu, and Lion Dance
Bring Traditional New Year's Festivities to Sarasota
Sunday, February 14, 2010**

**Students from Sarasota Chinese Academy,
New College of Florida, Saint Stephen's Episcopal School, and
Pine View School to Participate**

January 27, 2010 (Sarasota, FL)—The Year of the Tiger is approaching! This year, you don't have to travel far from home to ring in Chinese New Year with all the traditional festivities. The Gulfcoast Chinese American Association and Sarasota Chinese Academy are hosting an afternoon of family fun to celebrate the start of the New Year right here in Sarasota.

**1:30 pm – 5 pm
Sunday, February 14, 2010
Girl Scouts Center
4780 Cattlemen Road
Sarasota, Florida 34233**

The program is preceded by refreshments, a silent auction, and an exhibition of local Chinese organizations, with entertainment beginning at 2:30 pm. The Wing Chun Shaolin Kung Fu and Lion Dance Group of Lakeland kicks off the celebration with a colorful, energetic lion dance, traditionally intended to ward off evil spirits in the New Year. Sarasota Chinese Academy students will perform traditional Chinese dance, music and songs, followed by performances from Saint Stephen's Episcopal School and Pine View School, who are joining the celebration for the first time this year. A student group from New College of Florida will also perform.

"We are pleased to have our local schools and colleges participating in this important celebration," said Barry Zhang, principal of Sarasota Chinese

Academy. "We are dedicated to providing Chinese language instruction and promoting the appreciation of Chinese culture, so it's gratifying to see that our local educational institutions are recognizing the value of understanding and speaking Chinese in today's global marketplace. The New Year is a joyous celebration and a wonderful time for the American Chinese and non-Chinese-speaking communities to come together."

In China, the New Year, or Spring Festival, is the most important holiday of the year, with families gathering for festivities that last for 15 days leading up to the first day of the first month in the Chinese Lunar Calendar. The Lunar Calendar is cyclical, so the first day of the year can fall anywhere between late January and the middle of February. According to the Chinese zodiac, which assigns one of 12 animals to each year, 2010 is the Year of the Tiger.

This event is free for GCAA members. For non-GCAA members, admission is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child, free for children under 6.

About Gulfcoast Chinese American Association (GCAA)

The Gulfcoast Chinese American Association is a non-profit charitable (IRS certified 501(c) 3 organization whose mission is to provide educational, cultural service and charitable support to our community. Members include Chinese American families, American Families with Children from China (FCC), members of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA), and Americans at large who desire friendship with and cultural understanding of American Chinese and China. Membership is open to all. <http://www.gulfcoastchineseamerican.org>

About Sarasota Chinese Academy (SCA)

Sarasota Chinese Academy is a non-profit, non-religious, non-political, cultural, and educational institution. The mission of the school is to:

- Provide quality Chinese language instruction in a safe environment to local community members in Sarasota and surrounding counties.
- Promote understanding and appreciation of traditional Chinese culture, history and philosophy.
- Promote friendship and serve as a liaison between the American Chinese community and the non-Chinese speaking community.

<http://www.sarasotachineseacademy.org>

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