



Lunar New Year at Grand Harvest



The Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay held a grand “2026 Chinese New Year of the Horse Celebration Banquet” on February 21 at Grand Harvest Restaurant. The event was filled to capacity, with nearly 80 members and guests in attendance. The venue was alive with festive joy and celebration. President Sunny Duann delivered the welcome remarks, noting that the day coincided with the auspicious “Welcoming the God of Wealth” celebration. She extended her heartfelt wishes for the new year: “May your career gallop toward success, may wealth flow abundantly, and may you enjoy good health and prosperity in all things.”

Special guests included Ms. Mariben Andersen, chairwoman of the Mayor’s Asian American Advisory Council; Ms. Ming He, President of the Suncoast Association of Chinese Americans; and Mr. Lei Cheng, President of the Chinese American Association of Tampa Bay. They joined the celebration and offered congratulatory remarks, demonstrating the spirit of unity and collaboration within the community.

President Duann expressed sincere appreciation to all board members for their dedication and introduced those in attendance, including Vice-President James Oldham, Jill Xiong, Andrew Lien, and Peter Simmons. Special thanks were extended to former President Ms. Yingyi Xu and high school intern Emily Ding for assisting with front desk reception, bringing youthful energy to the event.

Lunar New Year continues

During the banquet, President Duann announced that the Chamber has officially applied for and received approval from the government to become a nonprofit organization. Reflecting on the past year, she highlighted a series of successful programs, including business visits, educational seminars, and a cultural exchange trip to The Ringling Museum. In the coming year, the Chamber will continue its mission of service, supporting member businesses with expanded resources and opportunities for growth.

The Board thoughtfully arranged a rich program of performances. Ms. Baozhen Li presented exquisite music on four traditional Chinese instruments-the bamboo flute, erhu, hulusi, and morin khuur-captivating the audience. The StarLite Dance Group from the Suncoast Association of Chinese Americans performed three graceful classical dances, elegant and enchanting. Master Bob Ong's kung fu demonstration, along with an exciting raffle drawing featuring generous prizes, earned enthusiastic applause from the crowds.



Save the Dates

Saturday, April 18, 2026

CCCTB is planning an engaging and insightful presentation you won't want to miss! Watch the WeChat group and Facebook for updates.

Saturday, May 2, 2026

CCCTB Wellness Herbal Farm Tour, **Vicky's Living Food**, in Dade City, FL.

Saturday, May 30, 2026

CCCTB annual board members installation ceremony.

Board Members Family Additions

Justin Andrew and his wife Deana welcomed their first born son, Jack. **Tracy Lesh** welcomed her 3rd grandchild, Hazel.



CCCTB SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER



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Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Festival

CCCTB will have a vendor tent at this event on Saturday, March 28, 2026 at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park. Bring the family and enjoy cultural performances, delicious culinary bites, and educational exhibits. Stop by our table and say hello to our board members-they have a special gift for you!

CCCTB Welcomes New Board Member - Jay Weisbrod

Mr. Jay Weisbrod has lived abroad in Taiwan and China for many years and is fluent in Mandarin. He is a graduate of Virginia Tech and his work history includes Esquel Group, a Hong Kong-based textile manufacturer and Smithfield Foods. Currently, he is Sales Manager - North America of GPS Food Group.

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Global Stories of Courage Highlighted at Tampa Holocaust Remembrance Event



At Tampa's International Holocaust Remembrance Day observance, civic and cultural leaders came together to share stories of individuals and nations who protected Jewish lives during World War II. Hosted at Tampa City Hall, the program honored the "Righteous Among the Nations", which are people from diverse backgrounds who risked their safety to rescue Jews during the Holocaust. Among the featured speakers was Sunny Duann, president of CCCTB. Representing Shanghai, Duann described how her hometown became one of the few places in the world open to Jewish refugees, providing sanctuary to nearly 20,000 people fleeing Nazi persecution. She highlighted the humanitarian legacy of Chinese diplomat Dr. Feng-Shan Ho, who issued thousands of lifesaving visas that enabled Jewish families to escape Europe and rebuild their lives in Shanghai. Speakers from several cultural communities shared parallel accounts of courage, refuge, and solidarity across continents. Together, their stories reinforced a lasting message: moral courage and compassion can transcend borders, and even in history's darkest moments, individual choices can save lives and shape humanity's future.

The Unseen Tug-of-War: Balancing Digital Convenience with Essential Security



In our digital lives, we constantly crave the convenience of frictionless experiences like instant transfers and automatic logins. However, there is a hidden trade-off between this convenience and our security. For years, people have favored convenience by reusing simple passwords, a habit cybercriminals exploit daily through frequent data breaches. Because high convenience almost always equals low security, removing barriers for ourselves also removes them for attackers. Our goal shouldn't be to eliminate convenience entirely, but to accept a little "friction" for vastly superior protection.



The most critical step you can take is enabling **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)**. MFA requires multiple independent credentials to verify your identity, acting as a secondary deadbolt on your digital door. Even if a hacker steals your password, they cannot access your account without the second key, such as a temporary code sent to your smartphone. While taking an extra five seconds to enter a code is slightly inconvenient, it is a minor price to pay considering Microsoft states MFA blocks over 99.9% of account compromise attacks.

Next, you should utilize a **Password Manager** to handle the burden of remembering complex logins. Because human memory is limited, people often reuse passwords, meaning a breach on a low-security hobby site could ultimately expose your bank account. A password manager acts as an encrypted vault that stores and organizes all your credentials behind one strong master password. Although there is a slight learning curve to set it up, the software actually increases convenience in the long run by generating and auto-filling virtually unguessable passwords for every site you visit.

While the first two tools keep criminals out, **Real-Time Credit Card Alerts** provide rapid detection if your financial data is compromised elsewhere. Most banks let you set up instant push notifications or text messages for every card transaction. Fraud detection is a race against time; without alerts, you might not notice a fraudulent charge until weeks later when the damage is already extensive. The slight annoyance of your phone buzzing when you buy coffee is easily outweighed by the ability to instantly lock your card and report fraud the second an unauthorized purchase occurs.

Navigating the digital world comes with invisible risks, and relying purely on convenience is like leaving your front door unlocked to avoid the hassle of carrying keys. Protecting yourself doesn't require becoming an IT expert. By adopting these three fundamental tools—MFA, password managers, and credit card alerts—you build a robust digital defense with minimal disruption. The small amount of time invested in setting up this slight digital friction today will pay massive dividends by securing your financial future and your peace of mind tomorrow.

-Andrew Lien

HAPPY YEAR OF THE HORSE!



When you're planning your next meal out, visit our website to discover participating restaurants offering exclusive member discounts!

CCCTB MEMBERSHIP RESTAURANT BENEFITS 2026



AJISAI ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT (15% OFF)

2101 E Fowler Ave, Tampa, FL 33612

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CHINA BUFFET (15% OFF)

1245 E Fowler Ave, Tampa, FL 33612

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CRAFTY CRAB BRANDON (10% OFF)

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4022 Tampa Road, Oldsmar, FL 34677

(813) 510-3000



JU FU HOUSE (10% OFF)

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Clearwater, FL 33760

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LAMEIZI HOT POT & BBQ (5% OFF)

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To join CCCTB, scan QR Code or
<https://link.chinesechambertb.org/join>



Note: all discounts are dine-in only, alcohol excluded, & subject to change.

Inside the Boardroom

Each newsletter, we go beyond the name and title to introduce you to the people guiding our chamber. From personal passions to little known stories, discover what shapes the leaders who serve you. This issue, our spotlight shines on **Emily Ding!**



Emily is the first-ever intern at the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, helping us launch a new program while already setting a high bar for those who may follow. A student at Wiregrass Ranch High School, Emily plans to attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to study aeronautical science. She is a strong student and active leader, participating in National Honor Society, RHO Kappa (those students who excel in social studies), and the Crochet Club—a well-rounded student that would make any parent proud. Emily represents the whole package: academic dedication, curiosity about the world, and a spirit of exploration and adventure. She is also a student pilot, already working toward her pilot's license...an impressive and uncommon achievement for someone still in high school. With her passion for aviation and learning, Emily is clearly charting an inspiring path forward.

Tampa-Based Team Leading Global Rescue Missions



While global conflicts dominate headlines, one remarkable rescue effort is operating quietly from right here in Tampa Bay. Grey Bull Rescue, a nonprofit founded by Tampa resident Bryan Stern, is helping Americans safely evacuate from the Middle East amid growing regional instability. The organization specializes in complex evacuations, coordinating transportation and logistics to move people out of dangerous areas when traditional travel options are limited. Since its founding, Grey Bull Rescue has completed hundreds of rescue missions worldwide, helping thousands escape conflict zones and crisis situations. Stern, a U.S. military and intelligence veteran, created Grey Bull Rescue to fill a critical gap in emergency evacuations. Today, his Tampa-based team is recognized internationally for its courage, professionalism, and commitment to humanitarian service. Their work is a powerful reminder that world-changing efforts often begin at the local level, and Tampa Bay is proud to be home to such a dedicated team.

Join CCCTB Today



CCCTB

Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay

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