

The Bay Area Discovery Museum Chinese New Year Festival

Monday, February 18, 2008
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Special Performances:

- 10 a.m. Dragonhorse Lion Dance
Festival Plaza (if rain, Discovery Theatre)
Free Performance
- 11 a.m. Yao Yong Dance
Discovery Theater
Members \$7.50; General \$9.50
- 1 p.m. Yao Yong Dance
Discovery Theater
Members \$7.50; General \$9.50
- 1 p.m. Marin Chinese Cultural Association Lion Dance
Festival Plaza (if rain, Discovery Theatre)
Free Performance

Special Food:

Chinese food for sale in the Playhouse

Ongoing Activities:

- Lantern Making
Studio 10
- Year of the Rat Book Reading
and Signing with Oliver Chin
Studio 10
10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.,
& 12:30 p.m.
- Lucky Red Envelopes
Studio 5
- Chinese Zodiac Symbols
Studio 5
- Chinese Calligraphy
Ceramics Studio
- Sweet Fried Wontons
The Playhouse

**Celebrate the Year of the Rat with food,
crafts and performances—rain or shine!**

Special thanks to the Marin Chinese Cultural Association, the Dragonhorse
Lion Dancers, and Yao Yong Dance Company.

The Bay Area Discovery Museum is a Park Partner in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

In case of rain, please obtain your free performance ticket at the Front Desk prior to entering the theatre for the Lion Dances.

**Bay Area
Discovery
Museum**



557 McReynolds Road
Fort Baker
Sausalito, CA
(415) 339-3900
www.BayKidsMuseum.org

The Bay Area Discovery Museum
is a hands-on indoor/outdoor
play museum for children ages
8 and younger and their families.
\$10 adults; \$8 children.

Members & children under 1 are free!
Performance fees are in addition to Museum admission.

Chinese Lunar New Year Fun Facts

Compiled by the Bay Area Discovery Museum

GUNG HAY FAT CHOY! – GOOD FORTUNE AND HAPPINESS!



Chinese New Year is a festive family holiday which celebrates the beginning of the New Year. The date is determined by the Chinese Lunar Calendar and usually falls in late January or February and the series of celebratory events can last up to two weeks. The primary focus at this time is to ensure good luck, pay respects to ancestors, gods and spirits, and to wish good fortune for friends and family in the coming year.

Traditions and Customs

The Kitchen God – Tsun Kwan

On the 23rd day of the last month of the New Year, the Kitchen God leaves the family's home to report to heaven on the family's behavior during the past year. Families pray to the Kitchen God and serve a special dinner in his honor. Sweet foods are served to "sweeten up" the God's report to heaven. After dinner, his

picture is burned and many people light firecrackers. On New Year's Day, the Kitchen God returns to the family. On New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, families get together and have feasts. Houses are cleaned prior to New Year's Eve, but not on the celebratory days themselves.

The Zodiac

The Chinese Zodiac is divided into 12 parts, each representing a different animal. Each year is ruled by one of these 12 animals. The Year of the Rat is celebrated in 2008!

Red Envelopes

Children receive lucky red envelopes with money inside. The envelopes, called "Li-cee," represent good luck and bring good fortune.

Traditional Foods

Tray of Togetherness

Candied melon, which brings growth and good health, and candied coconut, which brings togetherness are some of the foods served on this eight-sided tray.

Oranges and Tangerines

New Year's fruit will bring wealth and good fortune. Typically, families will display one of each in each room of the house.



Decorations

Couplets

These are short poems written in classical Chinese. They are always hung in pairs and have wishes of good health and fortune for the coming year.

Money Tree

Pine and Cyprus branches are decorated with coins, paper flowers and fruits. These are all symbols of prosperity.

Events

Festivities

Lion Dances: On the 3rd through 5th days of the New Year, lion dances are performed in the streets to ward off evil spirits.

Dragon Parade

This is the highlight of the festivities with lots of color, noise, music and excitement!