Oakland Museum of California

Lunar New Year Celebration and Other Asian Traditions: Year of the Rat

Saturday, February 8, 2020 • 12–4:30 pm

The Lunar New Year is one of the most important and festive holidays of the year for many Asian families around the world. Traditionally, families celebrate the New Year by cleaning the home, cooking a feast, making red and gold banners, and preparing other special decorations. This vibrant holiday also marks a time to remember loved ones and honor ancestors, earn favors and good fortune for the New Year, and celebrate the arrival of spring.

Whether you observe, 中国节 (Chinese New Year), Seollal (Korean New Year), or Têt (Vietnamese New Year) enjoy the sights, tastes, and sounds of the Lunar New Year. May the Year of the Rat bring blessings of happiness, health, and peace that surround you all through the year.

The Year of the Rat

1924 • 1936 • 1948 • 1960 • 1972 • 1984 • 1996 • 2008 • 2020

The Year of the Metal Rat begins on January 25, 2020 and ends on February 11, 2021. First in the cycle of 12 Animal signs, the Year of the Rat begins the sequence and recurs every twelfth year. People born in the Year of the Rat are clever and bright, sociable, and family-minded. They have broad interests and a strong ability in adapting to the environment and are able to react adequately to any changes. They are gifted in many ways and have an easy-going manner. They are active, pleasant, tactful, and able to grasp opportunities.

OMCA wishes you and your family good luck and much happiness in the Year of the Rat!
Schedule of Events

OPENING CELEBRATION
11:30 am & 1 pm  OAK STREET PLAZA / MAIN ENTRANCE • LEVEL 3
WELCOME—New Year Songs by Dharma Realm Chinese Orchestra Ensemble

12 pm  10TH STREET AMPHITHEATER • LEVEL 1 (If raining, performance will move to Koi Pond • Level 1)
OPENING CELEBRATION—Lion Dance
Usher in the New Year and chase evil spirits away with a lucky lion dance by Vovinam America.

PERFORMANCES
1 & 3 pm  JAMES MOORE THEATER • LEVEL 1 (Limited seating. Doors open 15 minutes before each performance.)
Sounds of Korea (mix with Buchachoom, Gainjeonmokdan and Samgomu)
by OngDance Company & School (choreography by Kyoungil Ong)
Bhutanese Traditional Dance by Bay Area Bhutanese Youth
Garba, Indian Folk Dance by Sahiyar Dance Troupe Junior Team
Magic Show by Perry Yan

1:15 & 3:15 pm  10TH STREET AMPHITHEATER • LEVEL 1 (If raining, performances will move to Koi Pond • Level 1)
Japanese Taiko by Jiten Daiko
K-pop Dance and Demonstration by KPG Cal
Tae Kwon Do Demonstration by Intensity Martial Arts
Malaysian 24-Festival Drums by Developing Virtue Secondary School  (1:15 pm only)
A typical unit consists of twenty four drums. The number twenty-four represents agricultural seasons from the Chinese calendar.

12–4:30 pm  NEXT TO THE OMCA STORE • LEVEL 2
Chún Jié (Chinese New Year): Gongfu Cha with Fabula Tea
KOI POND • LEVEL 1
Chinese Calligraphy with Aiqin Zhou

1:30 & 3:30 pm  LECTURE HALL • LEVEL 1 (Limited seating. Doors open 15 minutes before each Storytime.)
The Year of the Rat: Tales from the Chinese Zodiac with author Oliver Chin

2:30 pm  The Last Hoisan Poets, a special poetry reading in English and Hoisan-wa by Nellie Wong and Flo Oy Wong.
These two monumentally influential women artists and poets all trace their roots to China’s Toisan villages, home of the Hoisan-wa (a.k.a. Toisanese/ Taishanese) Chinese dialect. They will do a special poetry reading in English and Hoisan-wa, to pay homage to their mother language which is at risk of fading from collective memory.

PETTING ZOO
1:30–4:30 pm  OAK TREES NEXT TO THE 10TH STREET AMPHITHEATER • LEVEL 1
Live Farm Animals with Little Explorers Petting Zoo

DEMONSTRATIONS & ACTIVITIES
12–4:30 pm  NEXT TO THE OMCA STORE • LEVEL 2
Chún Jié (Chinese New Year): Gongfu Cha with Fabula Tea
KOI POND • LEVEL 1
Chinese Calligraphy with Aiqin Zhou

1:30 & 3:30 pm  PLANET LOBBY • LEVEL 1
Losar (Tibetan New Year): Tibetan Prayer Flag with Jamyong and Phunchoe Singye

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Têt (Vietnamese New Year): Vietnamese New Year Food with Berkeley Buddhist Monastery
Foodies can learn how to create their own healthy Vietnamese food.

2:30 pm  CALIFORNIA ROOM AND PLANET LOBBY • LEVEL 1
Calligraphy with Dharma Master Jin Fo Shr

Schedule continues on back >