

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR

2022

THE YEAR OF THE TIGER





# THE SCOOP

We are bringing you an overview of Chineses Lunar New Year. February 1st, 2022 is the Chinese Lunar New Year. Please come join us to celebrate one of the greatest festivals in Chinese culture.

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# **History of Chinese Lunar New Year**

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**Steven Erquiza**

Chinese New Year, also known as Spring Festival or the Lunar New Year, is the most important holiday in China. Chinese New Year will start on February 1 this year. The Chinese New Year date is based on the Chinese lunar calendar. The holiday was to honor households and deities as well as ancestors. It brings families together for feasting and celebration. In 1912, the Chinese adopted the tradition of celebrating January 1 as New Year's Day. China, however, continues to use the traditional greeting of "Kung Hei fat Choi" for Chinese New Year.

## **Lunar New Year**

The Chinese lunar calendar is used as a religious, dynastic, and social guide. Inscribed astronomical records on oracle bones indicate that the calendar existed as early as 14th century B.C., during the Shang Dynasty. Every time there was a new emperor, the calendar resets, and it varies from one region to another.

The Chinese calendar was complex. It was set according to the lunar phases, equinoxes, and solar solstices. Yin and yang, the opposing but complementary principles that make up a balanced world, also affected the calendar.

Chinese New Year usually begins with the new moon between the end of January

## **Spring Festival**

The Western-style Gregorian Calendar arrived in China along with Jesuit missionaries in 1582. The general population began to use it by 1912, and New Year's Day was officially recognized as occurring on January 1.

Beginning in 1949, under the rule of Mao Zedong, leader of the Chinese Communist Party, the government did not allow the celebration of traditional Chinese New Year, and they followed the Gregorian calendar in its dealings with the West.

But at the end of the 20th century, Chinese leaders decided to accept the traditional Chinese New Year. In 1996, China instituted a one-week vacation during the holiday, now called Spring Festival. This allows people to travel home and celebrate the new year.

In the early 21st century, Chinese families celebrated the Spring Festival with traditional food and symbols using a large sum of their discretionary income. They also enjoyed watching the televised Spring Festival Gala. It is a show televised every year featuring traditional and contemporary dancers, singers, and magic demonstrations.

A change in attitude toward the Spring Festival occurred in China's young people, with Chinese college students preferring to spend their time surfing the internet, watching tv, sleeping, or spending time with friends over celebrating with family. They also reported that they dislike traditional New Year food such as dumplings and glutinous rice pastry.

With its change of name from Chinese New Year to Spring Festival, for some of the younger generation, the holiday now is a chance to just chill and relax from

## **Nian Legend**

Chinese New Year has a lot of stories and myths. One of the most popular stories is about the mythical beast Nian (/nyen/), who ate crops, livestock, and even people on the eve of a new year. To prevent Nian from attacking people and causing havoc, people put food at their doors for Nian. It is said that a wise old man found out that Nian was scared of the color red and loud noises. Because of this, people put red lanterns and red scrolls on their windows and doors to stop Nian from invading their houses. They also used crackled bamboo (later replaced by firecrackers) to scare Nian away. The monster Nian never showed up again.



## **The Shang Dynasty**

Chinese New Year has been celebrated for about 3500 years. Its exact beginning is not recorded. Some people believed that the Chinese New year originated in the Shang Dynasty (1600 - 1046 BC). People performed sacrificial ceremonies to honor gods and ancestors at the beginning of the end of each year.

## **The Zhou Dynasty**

The Nian (year) term first appeared in the Zhou Dynasty (1046 - 256 BC). Their custom was to offer sacrifices to their gods or ancestors and worship nature to bless harvest at the turn of the year.

## **The Han Dynasty**

The date of the Chinese new year was fixed in the Han Dynasty (202 BC - 220 AD). It was on the first day of the first month in the Chinese lunar calendar. Some celebrations became famous, like burning bamboo to make a loud cracking sound.

## **The Wei and Jin Dynasties**

In the Wei and Jin dynasties (220-420), people began to entertain themselves apart from worshiping gods and ancestors. The ordinary people created customs such as family spending time together to have dinner, clean their house, and stay up later on New Year's Eve.

## **Tang to Qing Dynasties**

During the Tang, Song, and Qing dynasties, the prosperity of their economies and the evolving cultures accelerated the development of the Spring Festival. They have customs that mirror that of modern times.

Like setting off firecrackers, visiting friends and relatives, and making and eating dumplings became a celebration tradition. Also, having entertaining activities like watching lion and dragon dances during the Temple Fair and watching the lantern shows. The purpose of the Spring Festival shifted from being a religious one to an entertaining and social event, more like what we have today.

An essential aspect of Chinese culture is the Chinese zodiac sign, a 12-year astrological cycle in which an animal of the zodiac is assigned to each year of constant rotation. As each year passes by, Chinese New Year — Considered the most important Chinese Holiday — The zodiac animal of the given year advances to the next in the 12-year lineup.

## History of the origin of the Chinese zodiac (or Rather, stories)

Scholars believe that the Chinese zodiac originated during the Warring States Period (475 BC to 221 BC), or 战国 (Zhànguó Shídài). However, it was not until the Han Dynasty (202 BC to AD 202) that the popularity of the Chinese astrological calendar began to grow. Some various popular theories and stories explain the origin of China's zodiac animals. As a result, understanding the tradition's roots can be a bit confusing.

A popular theory posits that the Chinese zodiac originated along the trade routes of the Silk Road. Supporters of this theory say that the various animals of the zodiac represent those that were introduced to China by Indian Buddhists. A second theory, perhaps more widespread, centers on the legendary Jade Emperor. It is said that he invited all the animals in the world to a banquet, but only 12. As a result, he decided to honor these 12 animals, now popularly known as the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac, by dedicating a year in the Chinese calendar to each.

However, another Chinese zodiac origin story claims that Buddha himself asked for 12 sacred animals to protect the palace from him. Thus, he organized a race in which all the animals of the earth participated to identify the worthiest ones. Finally, the top 12 finishers of the race were selected as his escorts. Now, they represent the 12 signs of the Chinese zodiac. And it is the story I want to tell you.

## The Legend of the Twelve Animals of the Chinese Zodiac

There is a prevalent legend that could be described as the origin of the Chinese horoscope all over China. The Jade Emperor, the ruler of heaven, called all the world's animals into a race and said that the first twelve would enter the zodiac. To meet them, they had to cross a river.

In those days, the Rat and the Cat were great friends. But, although they were brilliant, they were the worst swimmers in the animal kingdom. So they decided that the best and fastest way to cross the river was to do it on the back of a Buffalo. The Buffalo agreed to carry them across the river. However, having a prize involved, the Rat decided that he had to do something to win, so he threw the Cat into the water: from then on, the Cat became a natural enemy of the Rat and the water. After this, the Rat washed ashore and claimed first place in the race, closely followed by the strong Buffalo, which was named the second animal of the zodiac.

Behind the Buffalo appeared the tiger, who explained, panting, how he had had to fight the currents and how, thanks to his great strength, he was able to reach the shore and become the third animal.

The fourth place in the zodiac went to the Rabbit, who, thanks to his ability to jump, was able to jump from one cost to another. However, he also explained to the Emperor that he would have fallen into the river had it not been for a piece of log floating in the water.



## Continue...

Later, the Dragon appeared flying, which told the Emperor that he could not get there first because he had to stop creating rain to help the people and creatures of the earth. In addition, in the final stretch, he had come across a Rabbit clinging to a log, which he helped by giving it a push with his breath to reach the shore. Surprised by his kindness, the Emperor awarded him fifth place in the zodiac.

Shortly afterward, the gallop of a Horse was heard, but a Snake frightened him and made him fall. Therefore, the Serpent finally took sixth place while the Horse took seventh place.

A short distance away were the Goat, the Monkey, and the Rooster, which were approaching the bank of the river. The three creatures helped each other cross it: the Rooster built a wooden raft for the three of them, while the Goat and the Monkey cleared the undergrowth, and thus, rowing and rowing, they managed to reach the opposite shore. The Emperor, delighted by the teamwork of the animals, named the Goat the eighth animal, while the Monkey and the Rooster were awarded the ninth and tenth places, respectively.

Although the Dog should have gotten a good rank for being the best swimmer of all animals, he was delayed because he needed a bath after the long run and seeing the fresh river water; It couldn't resist. So he was assigned the eleventh spot.

Just when the Emperor was about to close the race, he heard the growl of a small Pig that had started the race being very hungry, so shortly after starting, he had a feast and took a nap. When he woke up, he continued the race and arrived just to be named the number twelve animal in the zodiac.

Finally, the Cat was too late, ranking 13th and unable to win any spot on the calendar, so his hatred of Rats made him forever his fiercest enemy.

In this way, the Chinese horoscope would have been created. Although the story continuously varies depending on who tells it.

Another story tells us about the conflict of the Cat and the Rat. It is said that, although the Cat and the Rat were neighbors, the former always intimidated the latter, and the Rat felt very angry, but she did not dare to say it out loud; therefore, she sought revenge on the Cat. Hearing the Emperor's decree, the Rat chuckled and thought, "This is an opportunity." The sleeping Cat opened Rat's door, ordered Rat to tell him when he was going to the Emperor's birthday party, and Rat promised that he would.

However, in the morning, the Rat quietly left without saying anything to the Cat. And the Cat didn't wake up until the race was over, and it was too late - he wasn't able to get into the loop.

After the party, a great enmity grew between the Cat and the Rat so that the Rats scattered in all directions when a Cat appeared.



# Preparations:

On our Solar date **January 25th**, which in Lunar date is the 23rd date of the 12 months. People called that date, “**Little Year**” ( 小年, *Xi onián*), and it is the preparation day, mainly for thorough house-cleaning and cooking.

On **January 31st**, which is the 30th day of the Last Month! It’s known as **New Year’s Eve** ( 除夕, *Chúxì*), and they have a family reunion dinner, and stay up until midnight.

On **February 1st**, which is the 1st day of the new year, people call that day, **New Year’s day** ( 除夕, *Ch y* ). It’s a day for visiting/greeting family and relatives, giving presents and visiting ancestors’ graves.

On **February 2nd**, which is the 2nd day of the new year, people call that day, **In-Law’s Day** ( 倚靠日, *Yǐkào rì*, or 婚年, *Hēnián*), and married women visit their parents with their husbands and children.

On **February 3rd**, on 3rd day of the new year, people call that day, **Day of the Rat** ( 三日, *Sh rì*), and it’s an ominous day, typical to stay at home, rest with family, and play games.

On **February 4th**, on 4th day of the new year, and people call it, **Day of the Sheep** ( 三日, *Yángrì*) and it’s the day for prayer and giving offerings, or going to temples or fortune-tellers.

On **February 5th**, on 5th day of the new year, and people call it, **Break Five** ( 五日, *Pòw* ). It’s known for the day when the previous days of taboos can be broken.

On **February 6th**, on 6th day of the new year, and people call it, **Day of the Horse** ( 六日, *M rì* ). It’s believed that it is the best day to get rid of old, unwanted things.

On **February 6th**, on 6th day of the new year, and people call it, **Day of the Horse** ( 六日, *M rì* ). It’s believed that it is the best day to get rid of old, unwanted things.

On **February 7th**, on 7th day of the new year, and people call it, **Day of Mankind** ( 七日, *Rénrì* ). It’s believed that It’s the day that people were created. So it’s encouraged to spend out in nature.

On **February 8th**, on 8th day of the new year, and people call it, **Day of the Grain** ( 八日, *G rijie* ). If there is good weather, then it will symbolize good crops for the year. Many families will have a second mini-reunion dinner.

**On February 9th**, on 9th day of the new year, and people call it, **Providence Health** ( **Tíngngshíng**). It's the 'Jade Emperor's birthday, giving offerings, lighting incense, and setting off firecrackers.

**On February 10th**, on 10th day of the new year, and people call it, **Stone Festival** ( **Shítoujié**). The birthday of the 'god stone', similar to the previous day's rituals.

**On February 11th**, on 11th day of the new year, and people call it, **Son-in-Law Day** ( **Zìxùrì**). It's the day where Fathers are expected to 'entertain' or treat their sons-in-law on this day.

**On February 12th-14th**, on the 12th-14th day of the new year, and people call it, **Lantern Day Preparations**. Preparations for the lantern festival: cooking, making lanterns, etc.

**On February 15th**, on 15th day of the new year, and people call it, **Lantern Festival** ( **Yuánxīojíé**). It's marked as the end of the festival. So lanterns are lit and hung or flown. Or people-watch dragon dances in the streets and children answer lantern riddles.

In every culture, some superstitions affect people's lives. So during Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations, superstitions are all affected by what words sound like, what the shapes look like, and their colors. Here are some superstitions that people don't do when celebrating Chinese Lunar New Year.

On New Year's day, people don't sweep, or they will sweep the luck away. People don't wash their clothes since it will wash your fortune away. People don't eat porridge for breakfast because they will become poor in the following year. People don't wash their hair because it washes their luck. People don't do needlework since it depletes wealth. And many people don't say unlucky words, like "death," or it will bring death.

During the Spring Festival Season, there should be no crying, or it will bring bad luck. There should be no breaking dishes, or it will bring bad luck. There should be no knives or scissors, or it will cut wealth. There should be no lending or borrowing money leading to debt. There should be no killing to anything because it will cause misfortune. There should be no black or white colors because they are unlucky colors. There should be no odd amounts of money since it's unfortunate. Finally, there should be no hospital visits because it will bring illness.

# Red Pockets

--- Yessica Avila

Red Pockets, also known as hongbao, are used in the Chinese Lunar New Year. It is a tradition to give the gift of a bright red envelope to your friends and family. They are filled with money and symbolize good wishes and good luck for the new year.

Red pocket, red packet, red envelope... What is this magical red thing? Regardless of what term you use, (hóng bao) are great because they contain money. The money in red envelopes is also known as (yí suì qián). It is "money to anchor the year (s)." It is also known as "lucky money" or "New Year's money."

The importance of hong bao isn't the money inside but the envelope itself. The red color of the envelope symbolizes good luck and prosperity in Chinese culture. By giving the money to children, elders hope to pass on a year of good fortune and blessings. The younger generation provides another version to their elders as a blessing of longevity and a show of gratitude.

How did red pockets start? According to legends, a monstrous creature named Nian (年). Once a year, it would come out of the forest at night and devour entire villages. The steps of protection against Nian during New Year's Eve transformed into the Spring Festival celebration. Parents would also give children money that night. This way, the children would have something

In another famous story, there is a demon called Sui (岁). On New Year's Eve, it would come and pat children's head while sleeping. His touch was tainted. To protect their children, parents would stay up the entire night, guarding them. One couple gave their child a coin to play with. When he fell asleep, they placed the coin next to the pillow. At midnight, an eerie wind snuffed out the candle. When Sui reached for the child, the coin flashed in the darkness and scared him away. The next day, the couple wrapped the cash in red paper to show their neighbors.

Red packets are given when you pay a New Year's visit (拜年 / bài nián). Usually, the grandparents will sit in the back of a room. All of their children and grandchildren will perform three kowtows.





**Climate & food**

## The people

The Northern Chinese are taller and broader, eyes are more narrow, fairer skin, and longer faces. The Southern Chinese are shorter in stature, big round eyes, darker complexion, rounder faces, and shorter necks. These diversities are formed because of human acclimatization to the climate and diet. Northerners are quite outspoken and direct, humorous, gregarious, more inclined to be abstract, and perhaps somewhat more quarrelsome and egoistic. Southerners, by contrast, are more reserved, circumspect, less direct, and detailed in planning. Compared to the funny, expressive, and bold northerners, the delicate, restrained and hardworking, southerners focus more on economic performance.

## Language

The Southeast is linguistically diverse with the Min and Yue, and Wu in Shanghai languages, while Mandarin solely dominates in most of the North. Southerners, at least the urban ones, are more mercantile, entrepreneurial, while those in the North, being closer to Beijing, emphasize education and working in the bureaucracy more. Even though Chinese Mandarin, based on the Beijing-Northern dialect, is the official language in China, there are more than 100 dialects throughout the country. This can explain why northern people speak better Mandarin. You can easily understand the northerners, even with a northern (rhotic) accent. On the other hand, there are more difficult-to-understand dialects in southern China, including local languages of many minority groups, such as Zhuang, Yao, and Miao. Southern dialects are more difficult to understand.

# How the U.S Celebrates Lunar New Year

---- Donovan Guh

Contrary to popular belief, Lunar New Year is more than a holiday that's merely represented by red and gold cloth and cultural dances. It is a time for family members, no matter how far and wide, to gather over a meal, exchange red envelopes, connect and simply, welcome a new year. Especially so for Chinese Americans with their heritage. Generally, for Chinese American youth, Lunar New Year is a way for them to grasp the traditions of their parents and their ancestors before them.

Much like many other holidays, it culminates in a celebratory feast with family, gathered around a table that is filled to the brim with plates of food specially prepared for the day. Of course, this holiday goes beyond its food. Festivities and other affairs often take place during the period as well.

First things first. Despite Lunar New Year being the same holiday for native Chinese and Chinese Americans, there is a difference between how it's recognised in the respective countries. For starters, in China, Lunar New Year grants people at least a week off as a vacation, thus the respective festivities can stretch over an extended period.

According to China's Transport Ministry, over three billion trips are made both domestically and from abroad to reunite with loved ones. For migrant workers who live abroad to support their families in China, Lunar New Year is often one of the only times they can see their families at all. Therefore, the final New Year's Eve dinner with the whole family, (nian ye fan) or (tuan nian fan) all the more meaningful.

In America, Lunar New Year celebrations tend to be confined to a single, large feast during one evening. Not that the holiday is less important to Chinese Americans, but more so because workers typically do not get a day off. Even so, the day still encourages aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, parents and children to collect and

With the tradition of multi-course Lunar New Year dinners, Chinese American parents teach their children the importance of family and family time. Especially for children of Chinese immigrants, Lunar New Year is a way of experiencing the rooted traditions and culture of their parents or grandparents' homeland. It serves to remind them that, while they may live in America, they do not need to cast aside their heritage, rather, they should embrace their Chinese American identity. Lunar New Year celebrations in America serve as a means to express that identity.

Of course, for regions in America with an extensive population of Chinese Americans, it's no surprise that there are often more grand festivities held by the local Chinese community. In the U.S, around 3.8 million people identify as Chinese. San Francisco, California in particular, has a Chinese population of over 500,000 which, accounting for a general Asian-American population of thirty percent, is massive. In Chinatown, during the period of Lunar New Year, various parades and festivals are held in the area. From there, you can regularly see children and their families roaming the venues, visiting vendors and playing with firecrackers, spectating various dances, including lion and dragon dances, attending balls and pageants. Certainly, the story is the same with other cities in the U.S with a large population rooted in Chinese culture.

Finally, regarding the significance of Chinese New Year in the U.S While it is not a federal public holiday in the United States in general, it is a legal observance in California as of 2015. As such, various Chinese businesses often are closed or amend their business hours to take part in the Chinese New Year festivities. That is a pretty big deal considering also that there are Chinese travelers who want to visit the U.S for Chinese New Year as well.

# Chinese New Year represented in Modern Media

Donovan Guh

Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, has been a staple in Chinese culture ever since as early as 1600 BC. Given that it's a holiday that specifically pertains to the culture, and generally isn't celebrated as a public holiday outside of China, it's still interesting to note how popular it is. Celebrated effectively to the same degree as Christmas to the western world. With that in mind, we often see a lot of representation of Christmas in modern media. Can the same be said about Chinese New Year?

From a western perspective, no. There are very few instances of western media, whether film or games, that recognise Chinese New Year to the same extent as other western holidays, much less represent the holiday at all. Of course, when looking at Chinese centred media, it's far more normalized. With that in mind, what are some western-based media that do involve Chinese New Year in their product, or perhaps represent Chinese culture as a whole?

For Western-made films, there aren't many that come to mind that explicitly celebrate or acknowledge the holiday; the number of films that do this can likely be counted on your fingers. Though, there are plenty of non-western films that have been localised for a western audience that do touch upon the theme. The term *hèsuīpiān*( 喜劇片 ) or "New Year Film" is used to describe films that pack Chinese theatres during the holiday. Films under this terminology generally possess the theme of love and family, values that are prominent in Chinese New Year culture.

Rumble in the Bronx, released initially in Hong Kong on January 21st, 1995, is a film starring Jackie Chan. In an altercation that resulted in Chan's character defending his uncle's supermarket from burglary, he inadvertently ended up roping him into a fight with a gang and then later, a criminal syndicate involving the smuggling of prize jewels. The film is by no means stellar, but a comedic Jackie Chan movie is rarely ever not entertaining to some degree. Practical stunts were done by the actor himself without any CG or digital alterations. It still is considered a classic *hèsuīpiān*.

Another virtue of the Chinese New Year is prosperity. One way that western media, or rather, stores and vendors celebrate prosperity is through sales events. In the case of Steam, they'll have a Lunar New Year event. Several items will be discounted and a special points shop will be opened for users to purchase Lunar New Year-themed cosmetics.



Rather than reviewing films that possess themes relevant to Chinese New Year, especially, or how western organisations apply the theme, there are other ways that media does apply the culture, often a bit more on the nose too. Specifically, video games. Quite often, games that become popular enough to reach a global audience apply certain cultural events in the game to better adhere to the audience of different cultures and regions, Chinese New Year is no exception to this. In games like Animal Crossing, League of Legends, Pokemon GO, even World of Warcraft, all have implemented Lunar New Year thematic events. These events often involve either altering the aesthetics of the game to match that of the holiday's or rewarding players with in-game items and/or cosmetics for the duration of the event, or even permanently. Due to how popular these games are for a global audience, it makes sense as to why these games would implement such representation. Not only does it allow for a great profit margin, but it also allows for the art department of these games to apply the culture to their products in a thematically appropriate way.

Those are some of the many ways that Chinese New Year or Chinese culture is celebrated and/or represented for a western audience. There are plenty of other ways that it's presented, but these are some of the lesser obvious ways that the event is applied.

# CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL -Ricksel Penullan

The 2022 Chinese lantern festival will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. The Chinese lantern festival is the 15th and last day of the Chinese New Year Festival. 2022 is the year of the black water tiger. 2022 Chinese new year day is Tuesday, February 1 2022, China time zone. Therefore the 15th Lunar day is the lantern festival.

In China, the lantern festival is called Yuan-Xiao the. This is because the Chinese eat Yuan-Xiao on this day. This custom originated from the Eastern Jin Dynasty in the fourth century. Then it became popular during the Tang and Song dynasty.

The significance of the lantern festival is that the first whole moon night in the Chinese calendar marks the anticipated return of spring and symbolizes the reunion of the family.

The origins and stories of the Lantern Festival can be traced back to 2,000 years ago, there are many stories of the source; but there are two stories deemed more popular than others. During the beginning of the Eastern Han Dynasty, Emperor Han Mingdi advocated Buddhism. He heard that some monks lit lanterns in their temples to show respect to Buddha on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month. Then he ordered all the temples, households, and royal palaces to light lanterns on that evening. Then as time goes, the Buddhist custom gradually became a grand festival among the people of China.

Origin story 2 is a legend that the Jade Emperor's favorite crane was killed by some villagers, so he decided to destroy the village with fire on the fifteenth day of the Lunar New Year. The Jade Emperor's daughter felt very sad about this and warned the villagers about what would happen. Then, a wise man advised the village to hang red lanterns to give the jade emperor the impression that the town was on fire. The emperor was fooled, and the city survived. The tradition of hanging red lanterns on the fifteenth day of the lunar year has continued to the present time.

## How people celebrate the lantern festival

The most prevalent tradition to celebrate the Yuanxiao festival are to enjoy the moment! Guessing lantern riddles, eating tangyuan, and seeing lion, dragon dances. Lighting and appreciating lanterns is the main activity of Yuanxiao Jie. Lanterns are seen everywhere, including houses, shopping malls, parks, and stress. Lighting lanterns symbolize "illuminating the future." It is a way for people to pray that they will have smooth futures and express their best wishes for their families. Many big lantern fairs are held in China during the lantern festival, such as the Qinhua international lantern festival in Nanjing and shanghai.



# Stories of Chinese Lunar New Year In YouTHLINE

What I would like to experience in the Chinese new year is having to partake in the lantern rite. The Lantern rite festival seems pretty at night and eventful. It looks gorgeous from far and beyond the sea, though I suppose I want to see the Chinese opera and maybe solve lantern riddles along the way or go play hide and seek. Though I am 20 years old you only get to live life once you might as well live to the fullest. Lantern rite is an event for people to have fun and put their mind at ease, have fun and just enjoy the moment while it lasts.

--Ricksel Penullan

My favorite memory about the Chinese Lunar New Year was hanging out with my best friend in China. Every first day of the Chinese Lunar New Year, I will wear a new outfit and hang out with my best friend and her family. We will drive a car to different places, sometimes maybe it was rainy on that day, we would all stay at home and have fun together. In the evening, we might watch the fireworks together under the bridge. I really miss my best friend and the days in China. Nowadays in the US, I don't have that much chance to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year. Because there are no holidays for the Chinese Lunar New Year at UC Berkeley, I need to go to school on that day.

-- Katie



# STORIES OF CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR IN YOUTHLINE

With me not coming from Chinese decent, I've never gotten the chance to celebrate Chinese New Year. I know it's a celebration that includes the colorful dragons, but I'm not sure exactly what it's for. When I was younger my favorite show used to be Ni Hao Kai-Lan and I remember the characters celebrating Chinese New Years. I thought it was cool that they come together and celebrate because separation/isolation amongst many races are very common today. I loved the positive messages it portrayed as well. If I got the chance to celebrate Chinese New Years I'd want to be able to participate in such activities. Even though I will never see the world from another race's point of view, I would love to get the chance to experience and explore something new.

----- Ronnique Louvier

Chinese Lunar New Year is a big thing in the Philippines, so growing up I was actually looking forward to this day. I used to go with family and friends to Chinatown. Watching the lion dancing and the fireworks. Seeing all the decorations and costumes was entertaining. We also eat this popular treat during Chinese Lunar New Year called Tikoy, it's this sticky steamed rice cake (one of my favorite treats).

----- Steven Erquiza





HAPPY NEW YEAR & HAPPY FAMILY

Mandarin: *xīn nián kuài lè, hé jiā xìng fú*

Cantonese: *sun nin fai lok hop gah heung fook*



January 2022

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