



A Publication of  
Orchard and Solano  
Parks, UC Davis

# THE PARK MESSENGER

February 2011

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### Orchard Park Office Hours:

Monday ~ Friday:  
8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.

### Solano Park Office Hours:

Monday ~ Friday:  
8:00 a.m.—12:00p.m.  
1:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.

### Special points of interest:

- February 21, 2011 is a University Holiday. All campus offices will be closed. Please contact the on-call RA for immediate assistance or if you are locked out.

## Chinese New Year

Submitted by: Casey Fawcett

Source: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese\\_New\\_Year](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_New_Year)

Chinese New Year, Lunar New Year, or Spring Festival is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. It literally means "Year-pass Eve". Chinese New Year is the longest and most important festivity in the Chinese Lunar Calendar. The origin of Chinese New Year is itself centuries old and gains significance because of several myths and traditions. Ancient Chinese New Year is a reflection on how the people behaved and what they believed in the most. Chinese New Year is celebrated in many other countries and territories with significant Chinese populations, such as Mainland China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam, and also in Chinatowns elsewhere. Chinese New Year is considered a major holiday for the Chinese and has had influence on the new year celebrations

of its geographic neighbors, as well as cultures with whom the Chinese have had extensive interaction. These include Koreans (Seollal), Tibetans and Bhutanese (Losar), Mongolians (Tsagaan Sar), Vietnamese (Tết), and the Japanese before 1873 (Oshogatsu). Within China, regional customs and traditions concerning the celebration of the Chinese New Year vary widely. People will pour out their money to buy presents, decoration, material, food, and clothing. It is also the tradition that every family thoroughly cleans the house to sweep away any ill-fortune in hopes to make way for good incoming luck. Windows and doors will be decorated with red color paper-cuts and couplets with popular themes of "happiness", "wealth", and "longevity". On the Eve of Chinese New Year, supper is a feast with

families. Food will include such items as pigs, ducks, chicken and sweet delicacies. The family will end the night with firecrackers. Early the next morning, children will greet their parents by wishing them a healthy and happy new year, and receive money in red paper envelopes. The Chinese New Year tradition is a great way to reconcile; forgetting all grudges, and sincerely wishing peace and happiness to everyone. In the Gregorian calendar, Chinese New Year falls on different dates each year, a date between January 21 and February 20. According to tales and legends, the beginning of Chinese New Year started with the fight against a mythical beast called the Nien (Chinese: 年; pinyin: *nián*). Nien would come on the first day of New Year to devour livestock, crops, \*Continued on page 2

# Chinese New Year

Continued from Page 1

and even villagers, especially children. To protect themselves, the villagers would put food in front of their doors at the beginning of every year. It was believed that after the Nien ate the food they prepared, it wouldn't attack any more people. One time, people saw that the Nien was scared away by a little child wearing red. The villagers then understood that the Nien was afraid of the color red. Hence, every time when the New Year was about to come, the villagers would hang red lanterns and red spring scrolls on windows and doors. People also used firecrackers to frighten away the Nien. From then on, Nien never came to the village again. The Nien was eventually captured by Hongjun Laozu, an ancient Taoist monk. The Nien became Hongjun Laozu's mount.

## Festivities

The Chinese New Year celebrations are marked by visits to kin, relatives and friends, a practice known as "new-year visits" (Chinese: 拜年; pinyin: *bài nián*). New clothes are usually worn to signify a new year. The color red is liberally used in all decorations. Red packets are given to juniors and children by the married and elders. See *Symbolism* below for more explanation.

*"Red couplets and red lanterns are displayed on the door frames and light up the atmosphere. The air is*

*filled with strong Chinese emotions. In stores in Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan, and other cities, products of traditional Chinese style have started to lead fashion trend[s]. Buy yourself a Chinese-style coat, get your kids tiger-head hats and shoes, and decorate your home with some beautiful red Chinese knots, then you will have an authentic Chinese-style Spring Festival."*

—*Xinwen Lianbo*, January 2001, quoted by Li Ren, *Imagining China in the Era of Global Consumerism and Local Consciousness*<sup>[6]</sup>

A reunion dinner is held on New Year's Eve where members of the family, near and far away, get together for the celebration. The venue will usually be in or near the home of the most senior member of the family. The New Year's Eve dinner is very sumptuous and traditionally includes chicken and fish. In some areas, fish (simplified Chinese: 鱼; traditional Chinese: 魚; pinyin: *yú*) is included, but not eaten completely (and the remainder is stored overnight), as the Chinese phrase "may there be surpluses every year" (simplified Chinese: 年年有余; traditional Chinese: 年年有餘; pinyin: *nián nián yǒu yú*) sounds the same as "may there be fish every year." During these 15 days of the Chinese New Year one will see superstitious or traditional cultural beliefs with meanings which can be puzzling in the eyes of those who do not celebrate this occasion.

There is a customary reason that explains why everything, not just limited to decorations, are centered on the colour red. At times, gold is the accompanying colour for reasons that are already obvious. One best and common example is the red diamond-shaped posters with the character 福 (pinyin: *fú*, Cantonese and Hakka: *Fook*), or "auspiciousness" which are displayed around the house and on doors. This sign is usually seen hanging upside down, since the Chinese word 倒 (pinyin: *dào*), or "upside down", sounds the same as 到 (pinyin: *dào*), or "arrive". Therefore, it symbolizes the arrival of luck, happiness, and prosperity. Red is the predominant color used in New Year celebrations. Red is the emblem of joy, and this color also symbolizes virtue, truth and sincerity. On the Chinese opera stage, a painted red face usually denotes a sacred or loyal personage and sometimes a great emperor. Candies, cakes, decorations and many things associated with the New Year and its ceremonies are colored red. The sound of the Chinese word for "red" (紅) is "hong" in Mandarin (Hakka: *Fung*; Cantonese: *Hoong*) which also means "prosperous." Therefore, red is an auspicious colour and has an auspicious sound.

## February is "Black History Month"

Submitted by Sue Franck

Celebrating Black History began in 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard Ph.D., initiated "Negro History Week." Dr. Woodson, a historian, chose the second week in February because it included the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. In 1976, the Bicentennial (200th birthday) of the U.S.A., the week-long observance was extended to the entire month of February in order to have enough time for celebratory programs and activities.

Black History Month is a time to commemorate African-Americans who have changed the world. Listed below are just a few notable African-Americans

**Frederick Douglass** was an escaped slave who was a writer, speaker and served as an adviser to President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War.

**Martin Luther King, Jr.** was a great civil rights leader who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work toward civil rights and was assassinated in 1968.

**Thurgood Marshall** was the first African-American who served on the US Supreme Court? **Harriet Tubman** was a woman who helped hundreds of other escaped slaves flee to freedom in the North via the

Underground Railroad.

**George Washington Carver** was a scientist who developed hundreds of products from peanuts, sweet potatoes, pecans, and soybeans, revolutionizing agriculture in the South.

**Dr. Charles Richard Drew** was a scientist who developed the idea of the blood bank, saving innumerable human lives.

**Mary McLeod Bethune** was an educator, politician, and social visionary, was one of the most powerful African American women of the first half of the twentieth century.

**Matthew Alexander Henson** was an explorer and colleague of Robert E. Peary who was in the first group of people to visit the North Pole.

**Marian Anderson** was the first African American to sing at the Metropolitan Opera.

**W.E.B. DuBois** was an educator, author, historian, sociologist, philosopher, poet, and leader. Besides being one of the founders of the NAACP, he was the very first African American to receive a doctoral degree from Harvard University

**Booker T. Washington** was an ex-slave who founded the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

**Mae C. Jemison** was the first African-American woman to go into space.

**Jackie Robinson** was the first

African-American to play major league baseball.

**Rosa Parks** was the woman who refused to give up her bus seat, prompting a city-wide bus boycott. This eventually resulted in a Supreme Court ruling that segregation on city buses is unconstitutional.

**Malcom X** (born Malcolm Little) was an African-American leader and prominent figure in the Nation of Islam, who articulated concepts of race pride and black nationalism in the early 1960s.

**Langston Hughes** was a poet, essayist, novelist, playwright, journalist, & lyricist; one of America's great writers.

**Jesse Owens** was an African-American athlete who won four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympic games.

**Elijah McCoy** was an inventor whose high-quality industrial inventions were the basis for the expression "the real McCoy".

**Barbara Jordan** was the first African-American woman to be elected as a U.S. congresswoman from the deep South.

**Madame C. J. Walker** was the first female African American millionaire (early 1900s).

You can find over 500 notable African-Americans, at [factmonster.com](http://factmonster.com).

# Theft in Orchard Park

Submitted by Jessica Loehrmann

Recently residents have reported loss of wagons, bike parts, bikes, etc. If you have a bike (especially a nice one) parked in the Parks, the use of a "U-LOCK" is highly

recommended. Also, neighbors should be on the lookout for unfamiliar faces and should report any suspicious behavior to the University Police. PLEASE report any and all thefts immediately to

the University Police so that they can keep a record of the frequency of any ongoing crime occurring in our neighborhood. UC POLICE: (530) 752-1727

## Community Programs

### Lunar New Year Dinner Party

Come enjoy a night ringing in the new Lunar Year! Please bring a dish to share and enjoy some yummy Asian cuisine in a beautiful atmosphere! A main dish and rice are provided by Orchard Park! ALL INVITED!! Call Jessica in Orchard Park with any questions at 681-0883.

When: Friday, February 4 at 6pm

Where: Orchard Park Community Center

### Toddler Playgroup

Bring your toddler to meet with friends while you have a chat with moms. I'll bring some useful parenting magazines to share.

When: Friday, February 4 at 11am

Where: Solano Park Community Center

### Sand Art

Do you miss long sunny days at the playground as kids so entertained by the sandbox? We have materials to make sand art! We will bring the fun of sand inside for a winter treat. Come prepared to get messy

When: Saturday, February 5 at 10am

Where: Orchard Park Community Center

### Origami

I know we are getting a little sick of the cold and/or rainy weather. Let's get together and get crafty by making sculptures from folding paper. I have instructions for a boat, a pig, a duck, a house, and a fly.

When: Monday, February 7 at 4pm

Where: Orchard Park Community Center

### Friendship Blossoms

Two classic Valentine's Day gifts — flowers and candy — combine to make one sweet treat. Come make these little paper blossoms to give to friends on Valentine's Day. If you have any questions, please contact Shawna Stevens at 757-7899.

When: Tuesday, February 8 at 4pm

Where: Solano Park Community Center

### Paper Lanterns

Come join us to make paper lanterns to adorn our community center for the Lunar New Year Celebration! We will be hanging them along a string of lights so we can see the lanterns illuminated. Children will need an adult helper for this activity. If you have any questions, please contact Casey Fawcett, RA for Solano Park at - 707-953-5279.

When: Wednesday, February 9 at 4pm

Where: Solano Park Community Center

### Homemade Valentines for School

Candy is available on a limited basis to attach to your homemade valentines. Scrapbook paper, hole punches, glue, etc all provided. Save some money, get creative and make little Valentine notes to pass out at school (as an American custom). Call Jessica in Orchard Park with any questions at 681-0883.

When: Tuesday, February 8 at 4pm

Where: Orchard Park Community Center

## Community Programs

### Valentine's Day Cards

Let's make Valentine's Day Cards. Create your own cute card to show how much you care. For questions please call Shakeela at 297-7451.

When: Friday, February 11 at 5pm

Where: Solano Park  
Community Center

### Lunar New Year Potluck

Come and celebrate the New Year with us! 2011 is the year of the rabbit. This is a special time for the community to gather together to celebrate the changing of the year. Bring one of your favorite dishes. We will be providing a few dishes and beverages. Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Casey Fawcett, RA for Solano Park at 707-953-5279.

When: Saturday, February 12 at 5pm

Where: Solano Park  
Community Center

### Toddler Playgroup with Gymnastic Mats

Roll out the mats and gymnastics shapes, and let your little one hang out in the Community Center with some other little kids. Gymnastics time, music time, and snacks provided. Call Jessica in Orchard Park with any questions at 681-0883.

When: Tuesday, February 15 at 10am

Where: Orchard Park  
Community Center

### Birdseed Biscuit

To encourage birds to visit your yard, try hanging a homemade birdseed biscuit. You might want to keep an eye out for feathered friends this month; the 2011 Great Backyard Bird Count is February 18-21, when people across the country spend 15 minutes or more taking stock of the birds in their towns. For tips, tally sheets, and a list of events, go to [birdsource.org/gbbc](http://birdsource.org/gbbc). If you have any questions please contact Shawna Stevens at 757-7899.

When: Tuesday, February 15 at 4pm

Where: Solano Park  
Community Center

### February Birthday Celebration

It is time to celebrate you or your neighbors' February birthdays together! We will be decorating cupcakes together. Get ready to have some fun, this event is for everyone. If you have any questions, please contact Casey Fawcett, RA for Solano Park at 707-953-5279.

When: Wednesday, February 17 at 4pm

Where: Solano Park  
Community Center

### Bird Card

Come learn how to make a cute bird card for giving to friends and family for birthdays or other special occasions. If you have any questions, please call Shawna Stevens at 757-7899.

When: Friday, February 18 at 4pm

Where: Solano Park  
Community Center

### Craft Hour for Adults

Come learn a new hobby or share your expertise. Learn how to press plants and flowers the correct way and turn them into creative keepsake. This is an hour for adults, NO KIDS please!!!! For questions please call Shakeela at 297-7451.

When: Friday, February 18 at 7pm

Where: Solano Park  
Community Center

### Simple Paper Cut Out Stained Glass

Start thinking sunshine! We are making cut out stained glass to hang on your window. By glass I mean bright colored tissue paper. These will be perfect for catching those first sunrays of springtime.

When: Monday, February 21 at 4:30pm

Where: Orchard Park  
Community Center



# Monthly Maintenance Tips

By Orchard and Solano Park Maintenance

Apartment Heating Issues:

- If you have problems with your heater after hours (after 4:30pm or on weekends or holidays), please contact an RA for

assistance. They will come to your apartment and re-light your heater or get you a portable heater to use until repairs can be made.

- Also, please make sure that

you have nothing stored on top of your heater as this is a fire hazard.

- Try to keep toys and other items from going under the heater.

## Holidays and Anniversaries

### February 3 - Setsubun [Japan]

In the old lunar Japanese calendar, each season had its own day (called Setsubun) to mark the change of the season. In the old calendar, the first day of spring (Rissyun) was considered to be the start of the new year, so the Setsubun at the end of winter was the last day of the year, and had special customs. It is the only Setsubun still celebrated. Various local family customs and manners of celebrating Setsubun still exist. All the customs are events suitable for greeting the new year: driving out evil, and wishing for good fortune in the coming year. On the evening of Setsubun, generally, an oni-uchi (devil-extermination) and mame-maki (bean-scattering) ceremony is held. Before nightfall people saute soybeans without oil, and in the evening, throw soybeans inside and outside of the house saying "Oni wa soto. Huku wa uchi! (Out with the devil! In with good fortune!)" in order to drive out any bad spirits. Also, people throw soybeans at another person wearing a devil mask as a kind of fun.

### February 4 - President Johnson Denounces Literacy Test in Order to Vote [U.S.A.]

On February 4, President Lyndon B. Johnson at a press conference had read a prepared statement in reaction to Selma: "I should like to say that all Americans should be indignant when one American is denied the right to vote. The loss of that right to a single citizen undermines the freedom of every citizen. That is why all of us should be concerned with the efforts of our fellow Americans to register to vote in Alabama. . . . I intend to see that the right [to vote] is secured for all our citizens." Two days later, Johnson instructed his press secretary to tell reporters that he soon planned to make "a strong recommendation" that Congress pass a voting rights bill that year. The Voting Rights Act was later passed on Aug. 5, 1965. (1965)

### February 12 - Birth of Abraham Lincoln [1809]

Abraham Lincoln was the sixteenth president of the United States. Once regarded as the "Great Emancipator" for his forward strides in freeing the

slaves, he was criticized a century later when the Civil Rights movement gained momentum for his caution in moving toward equal rights. If he is judged in the historical context, however, it can be seen that he was far in advance of most liberal opinion. He was assassinated on 15 April 1865.

### February 14 - Valentine's Day [U.S.A.]

Not all the details are known, but Saint Valentine was imprisoned for performing marriages declared illegal by Claudius II. While imprisoned, he became friends with the jailer's daughter. On the eve of his execution, he thanked her for her care and kindness in a note signed, "Your Valentine." In Roman times, 14 February was the night before a festival called Lupercalia, associated with fertility.

### February 15 - Nirvana Day (Parinirvana) [Buddhist]

Commemorates the death of Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, when he reached total nirvana at the age of 80. Celebrated by some on February 8th and others on February 15th each year.

# Calendar of Events

## February 2011

*\*\*All residents are welcome to attend all programs, regardless of location. All events held in the Community Center unless otherwise noted.\*\**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <u>Toddler Playgroup</u> SPCC 11am <u>Lunar New Year Dinner Party</u> OPCC 6pm	<b>5</b> <u>Sand Art</u> OPCC 10am
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <u>Origami</u> OPCC 4pm	<b>8</b> <u>Friendship Blossoms</u> SPCC 4pm	<b>9</b> <u>Paper Lanterns</u> SPCC 4pm  <u>Homemade Valentines</u> OPCC 4pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <u>Valentine's Day Cards</u> SPCC 5pm	<b>12</b> <u>Lunar New Year Potluck</u> SPCC 5pm
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <u>Toddler Playgroup</u> OPCC 10am  <u>Birdseed Biscuit</u> SPCC 4pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <u>Birthday Celebration</u> SPCC 4pm	<b>18</b> <u>Bird Card</u> SPCC 4pm  <u>Craft Hour for Adults</u> SPCC 7pm	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>HOLIDAY</b>  <b>PARKS OFFICES CLOSED</b>  <u>Stained Glass</u> OPCC 4:30pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>					



**The Parks at UC Davis**

Phone: (Orchard Park) 530-752-3959  
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Phone: (Solano Park) 530-752-3958  
Fax: 530-752-0484  
E-mail: studenthousing@ucdavis.edu

**A Publication of Orchard and Solano Parks, UC Davis**

**Your doorway to campus life & academic achievement**

**We're on the Web!**

[http://www.housing.ucdavis.edu/housing/apartments\\_orchard\\_solano.asp](http://www.housing.ucdavis.edu/housing/apartments_orchard_solano.asp)

The **Park Messenger** is published by Student Housing, at the University of California, Davis. Our goal is to communicate with Park residents, campus departments and the community of Davis. We encourage reader suggestions, criticisms and articles. Let us hear from you.

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**The Park Messenger online:**

[http://www.housing.ucdavis.edu/current/park\\_messenger.asp](http://www.housing.ucdavis.edu/current/park_messenger.asp)

**Did you know?**

➤ **Registration Reminder ~** Student Housing requires all students to meet our eligibility requirements to continue living in The Parks Apartments. **Students must have full-time registered status during fall, winter and spring quarters/semesters. Full-time status is defined at 12 units for quarter students and 10 units for semester students.** Students who do not meet the requirement are required to register for additional classes or submit notice to move out. Please

be aware of these requirements when you register for winter and spring quarters in the coming months. Please contact Student Housing at 752-2033 or your Park Office if you have any questions.

- Planning to vacate? Remember a 42-day notice is required.
- If you lose your laundry card, you need to purchase a new card at the ADD VALUE STATION within the laundry facility. If a machine is not working properly, please call the 1-800 number

within the laundry room for service.

- **Packages ~** Please don't ask the Park Office to accept your incoming packages. We don't have space and security for them. Perhaps a neighbor could be designated to accept a package for you, or you might indicate your balcony for drop-offs.
- When PG & E turns off your gas or electricity for non-payment of your utility account, you need to contact them directly at 1-800-743-5000 to reset your service.