In January an email was sent to all current residents providing the latest information regarding the future closing of Orchard and Solano Park, and new grad housing to be built at Orchard Park and at Wake Forest Drive (former Castilian Residence Halls location). A copy of that email is under the “Announcements” section of the Student Housing web site: [http://www.housing.ucdavis.edu](http://www.housing.ucdavis.edu)

As new information is available, it will be communicated via email to each Park resident and posted on the web page. If you have any questions regarding the future plans, and how these will affect you and your household, please contact your Parks Coordinator (Sue Franck), Parks Office Coordinator (Josephine Gorospe), Parks Representative at Student Housing (Salli Arreola) or Contracts Supervisor (April Berryman).

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**Vacancies Available in The Parks**

Submitted by April Berryman

Do you know any full-time registered students looking for an affordable on-campus apartment to rent? The Parks at UC Davis has immediate vacancies available for full-time students. We offer 1 and 2 bedroom unfurnished apartments in Solano Park and 2 bedroom unfurnished apartments in Orchard Park. If interested, eligible students may submit a $20 non-refundable application fee along with an application to the Student Housing Office to be placed on our waitlist. Please feel free to visit our website at [http://housing.ucdavis.edu](http://housing.ucdavis.edu) for more information.
Lunar New Year
Submitted by Casey Fawcett  Source: http://www.wikipedia.org

Lunar New Year is celebrated in many countries and territories, such as Mainland China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam, and also in Chinatowns elsewhere. Lunar New Year is considered a major holiday and is celebrated with slightly different traditions in each place. Here are some of the ways that these countries celebrate Lunar New Year.

CHINA
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.

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-luck 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.

VIETNAM
Tết Nguyên Đán, more commonly known by its shortened name Tết or "Vietnamese Lunar New Year", is the most important and popular holiday and festival in Vietnam. It is the Vietnamese New Year marking the arrival of spring based on the Chinese calendar, a lunisolar calendar. The name Tết Nguyên Đán is Sino-Vietnamese for Feast of the First Morning.

Tết is celebrated on the same day as Chinese New Year. It takes place from the first day of the first month of the Lunar calendar (around late January or early February) until at least the third day. Many Vietnamese prepare for Tết by cooking special holiday foods and cleaning the house. There are a lot of customs practiced during Tết, such as visiting a person’s house on the first day of the new year (xổng nhà), ancestral worshiping, wishing New Year’s greetings, giving lucky money to children and elderly people, and opening a shop. Tết is also an occasion for pilgrims and family reunions. During Tết, Vietnamese visit their relatives and temples, forgetting about the troubles of the past year and hoping for a better upcoming year. They consider Tết to be the first day of spring and the festival is often called Hội xuân (spring festival).

The New Year
The first day of Tết is reserved for the nuclear family. Children receive a red envelope containing money from their elders. Usually, children wear their new clothes and give their elders the traditional Tết greetings before receiving the money. Since the Vietnamese believe that the first visitor a family receives in the year determines their fortune for the entire year, people never enter any house on the first day without being invited first. According to Vietnamese tradition, if good things come to the family on the first day of the Lunar New Year, the entire following year will also be full of blessings. Usually, a person of good temper, morality and success will be the lucky sign for the host family and be invited first into the house.

Sweeping during Tết is taboo or xui (unlucky), since it symbolizes sweeping the luck away. It is also taboo for anyone who experienced a recent loss of a family member to visit anyone else during Tết.

*Continued on Page 3
Traditionally, each family displays cây nêu, an artificial New Year Tree consisting of a bamboo pole 5 to 6 m long. The top end is usually decorated with many objects, depending on the locality, including good luck charms, origami fish, cactus branches, etc. Vietnamese people also decorate their homes with bonsai and flower plants such as chrysanthemum marigold symbolizing longevity.

**KOREA**

**Korean New Year**, commonly known as Seollal, is the first day of the lunar calendar. It is the most important of the traditional Korean holidays. It consists of a period of celebrations, starting on New Year’s Day. Koreans also celebrate solar New Year’s Day on January 1 each year, following the Gregorian calendar. The Korean New Year holiday lasts three days, and is considered a more important holiday than the solar New Year’s Day.

Korean New Year generally falls on the day of the second new moon after winter solstice. Korean New Year is typically a family holiday. The three-day holiday is used by many to return to their hometowns to visit their parents and other relatives where they perform an ancestral ritual. Many Koreans dress up in colorful traditional Korean clothing called hanbok. 

Tteokguk (soup with sliced rice cakes) is a traditional Korean food that is customarily eaten for the New Year.

Sebae is a traditionally observed activity on Seollal, and is filial-piety-oriented. Children wish their elders (grandparents, aunts and uncles, parents) a happy new year by performing one deep traditional bow (rites with more than one bow involved are usually for the deceased) and the words saehae bok mani badeuseyo which translates to wish you a blessed new year. Parents typically reward this gesture by giving their children New Year’s money (usually in the form of crisp paper money) and offering words of wisdom, deokdam.

**THAILAND**

Water and string are crucial to welcoming the Thai New Year, Songkran. During the four days of festivities, which fall in mid-April, people sprinkle and douse each other with perfumed water to symbolize cleansing and renewal. In public displays of Rod Nahm Dum Hua, the water splashing gets a little wild, but in the home, the ceremony takes on a gentler and more sincere feeling. Traditionally, the younger household members carefully pour the jasmine petal scented water over the shoulder and down the back or on the hands of older relatives while uttering blessings and good wishes for the good year. In return, the elders ask for forgiveness for any harsh words they may have used in the past year and offer a blessing and words of wisdom to the youngsters. After the last drop of water from silver bowls is tossed and kind words are exchanged, it’s time for the string tying ritual. It involves the tying of string around someone else’s wrist while reciting a short blessing prayer. It is an honor to receive the strings and they are left on until they fall off by themselves.

Of course Songkran also includes the standard motions of cleaning your house, washing Buddha statues with perfumed water, visiting temples bearing gifts of preserved foods, prepared dishes, fresh fruit and new robes for the monks. These important activities are a must and are labeled "merit-making" for a reason.
Most of you maybe have heard about the big celebration called Chinese New Year. It is also known as Lunar New Year, as it celebrates the beginning of a new lunar year. However, not so many of you know that following this big celebration, on the 15th day of the first lunar month, there is another big festivity called “Chinese Lantern Festival”. The Chinese Lantern Festival celebrates the first full moon of a year and also marks the end of the celebration for the Chinese New Year.

Because people celebrate the first full moon in the Chinese Lantern Festival during the night, the day is also called Yuan Xiao Festival (“Yuan month” is first month in Chinese, and “Xian” means night.) According to the tradition of Chinese Lantern Festival, when there is a bright full moon hanging in the sky, there should be thousands of colorful lanterns hung out for people to appreciate. Thus, in the festival, there are always lots of lanterns hanging around on the streets to decorate this special night. During the celebration, people will try to solve the riddles written on the lanterns and eat yuan xiao, a glutinous rice ball, and get all their families united in the joyful atmosphere.

This year the Chinese Lantern Festival is on February 6th. We are going to have a big potluck party on that day. This is not just for celebrating the Lunar New Year, but also for the Chinese Lantern Festival. Please come to join us for this big potluck event in our community. I will prepare some “yuan xiao” for you to taste.

Let’s celebrate the beginning of the year of Dragon together! Join us at the Lunar New Year Potluck at the Orchard Park Community Center on Monday, February 6 at 6pm and at the Solano Park Community Center on Saturday, February 4 at 5:30pm.

**Lantern Festival**
Submitted by Tzu-Chi Source: http://www.sccfsac.org/lantern_festival.html

**Keep New Year's Resolutions Going with Self Mastery**
Submitted by Linnea Hall Source: Mastery (www.mindtools.com)

Self Mastery, when it is well developed allows one to handle situations well, and move forward consciously and steadily toward their goals. When working toward self mastery, you know your purpose, and are disciplined enough to do things in a deliberate, focused and honorable way. Self-mastery also means mastering your emotions, impulses and actions, this can also be called 'self-discipline.'

"He who controls others may be powerful, but he who has mastered himself is mightier still." - Lao-tzu

Self Mastery includes developing positive habits that will gradually improve life, by setting small achievable goals and accomplishing them. The next step is belief. Believe in yourself. Knowing others is intelligence; knowing yourself is true wisdom. Mastering others is strength; mastering yourself is true power." - Lao-tzu. Come to know yourself. Understand your goals and what you’re working on. Believe it is possible and work until it is completed. "Knowing" is the step most people leave out. Do not doubt yourself, be positive, have confidence. Then when you’ve completed something the sense of accomplishment, "Knowing" you did it, is essential to the final completion of the goal. The closure and accomplishment of a goal is rewarding. Take the new found accomplishment and seek a new goal, and achieve the next step. “Endurance and willpower is the key to success. Successful people strive no matter what they feel by applying their will to overcome apathy, doubt or fear.” Dan Millman. The power of self mastery, mastering your emotions, your time, your money, can progress the course of life in positive directions.
Black History Month
Submitted by Susan Franck  Source: http://www.history.com

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. The event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. That September, the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by black Americans and other peoples of African descent. Known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the group sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures.

In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing Negro History Week. By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the Civil Rights Movement and a growing awareness of black identity, Negro History Week had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses. President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Since then, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme. In 2010, the theme focused on the history of black economic empowerment and recognized the achievements of the painter Jacob Lawrence, the entrepreneur Annie Malone and the National Urban League, a civil rights organization.

OP Children’s Garden Needs YOU!
Submitted by Kyana Taillon

We're looking for a few residents to take over the Orchard Park Children’s Garden, a plot that all residents and their kids are invited to help plan, nurture, and harvest. This would be a great opportunity for some of the older kids to get involved and the RAs will be available to help! The Orchard Park Community Garden is growing and we have a lot of new gardeners; thanks to Ana for all her work as Garden Coordinator, and to all our gardeners for their work in maintaining the space. If you have an interest in gardening and would like more information, contact Kyana at kyanalily@gmail.com or Ana at orchardparkgardens@gmail.com
Community Programs

Craft Hour
Learn how to make a Chinese paper lantern which is a common decoration to celebrate Lunar New Year. Kids under 5 must come with an adult. For questions, please call Shakeela at 530-297-7451.

When: Thursday, February 2 at 4 pm
Where: Solano Park Community Center

Lunar New Year Potluck Party
Everyone, let’s celebrate the Lunar New Year 2012 together. This Year is going to be the year of the Dragon! This is a special time to get together with your friends and neighbors to celebrate the past year and bring joy to the New Year. Please bring a favorite dish to share. For questions, please call Tzu-Chi at 530-304-3070.

When: Monday, February 6 at 6 pm
Where: Orchard Park Community Center

Bouncy Fun
Come join us for our daughter Keiko’s 2nd birthday! No need for presents. We are just trying to get to know other families with children. We will have snacks for the kids, as well as two jumpers for the kids to play in. For questions, call Ruben Soto at 925-457-5737.

When: Saturday, February 4 at 2 pm
Where: Grassy area near 3900 building in the Solano Park Complex

Lunar New Year Potluck
Come and celebrate the New Year with us! 2012 is the year of the dragon. 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 at 707-953-5279.

When: Saturday, February 4 at 5:30 pm
Where: Solano Park Community Center

Felt Valentine Envelope
Create an eco friendly, personalized envelope you can use year after year for love notes. If you have any questions, please contact Linnea at 530-219-9477.

When: Thursday, February 9 at 4 pm
Where: Solano Park Community Center

Valentine Craft and Card Making
Dear all, it is time to show your love to your dear darlings through Valentines! Let’s make some of the sweetest Valentine crafts and cards together to impress our Valentines with our loving hearts! For questions, please call Tzu-Chi at 530-304-3070.

When: Monday, February 13 at 4:30 pm
Where: Orchard Park Community Center

Cooking Class
Come! No passport necessary for an hour of culinary trip to China. Learn how to make Shrimp Dumplings with Solano Park Resident Dan Liu and her mother Shunyu Luo, visiting from Beijing, China. For questions, please call Shakeela at 530-297-7451.

When: Wednesday, February 15 at 5 pm
Where: Solano Park Community Center

Adult Calligraphy Night Part 2
Take the skills we learned in the January Calligraphy class and apply them to Valentine Day cards. If you have questions, please contact Linnea at 530-219-9477.

When: Tuesday, February 7 at 7:15 pm
Where: Solano Park Community Center

Ping Pong Night
Show off your ping-pong skills at our Ping Pong Night! It’s a really fun sport and good exercise, as well! We’ll have all the equipment for this adult-only evening of fun, including lots of snacks! If you have a ping-pong table, feel free to bring it for more opportunities to play. See you there! Adults only, please. For questions, please contact Kyana at 530-554-9880.

When: Friday, February 10 at 7 pm
Where: Orchard Park Community Center
**Community Programs**

**Friendship Bracelet**
Have you ever seen those cool and colorful friendship bracelets? Would you like to make some for your friends and family? This month we are going to braid some fun and colorful friendship bracelets together. Please come join us for some fun braiding! For questions, please call Tzu-Chi at 530-304-3070.

When: Thursday, February 16 at 4:30pm
Where: Orchard Park Community Center

For questions, please contact Kyana at 530-554-9880.
When: Saturday, February 18 at 2pm
Where: Orchard Park Community Center

**Making Puppets for a Puppet Show**
Kid’s come join us to make our own puppets to put on our very own Solano Park Puppet show at the Community Center. I will be providing supplies and snacks; all you need to bring is your imagination. If you have any questions, please contact Casey at 707-953-5279.

When: Monday, February 20 at 4pm
Where: Solano Park Community Center

**Cross Stitch for Adults**
If you love needle point this is for you. We’ve got this fantastic kit even a beginner can do it as easy as 1-2-3. This is a class for grownups. NO KIDS please! For questions, please call Shakeela 530-297-7451.

When: Friday, February 24 at 7 pm
Where: Solano Park Community Center

**Marker Tie Dye**
Come to a no rubber band necessary, splash proof version of Tie Dye. There is potential for stains though, so wear clothes you don’t mind getting dirty. Kids 7 and younger must have an adult helper. If you have any questions, please contact Linnea at 530-219-9477.

When: Wednesday, February 29 at 4pm
Where: Solano Park Community Center

**Pizza Night**
Come enjoy a pizza filled evening and catch up with your neighbors. I will be providing the food and drinks; you are needed to provide the conversation. If you have any questions, please contact Casey at 707-953-5279.

When: Friday, February 17 at 5:30pm
Where: Solano Park Community Center

**Volcanoes!**
Let’s make our own volcanoes and watch them erupt! This kids’ science project will be educational and fun, and we’ll also have a “lava-licious” treat!

For questions, please contact Kyana at 530-554-9880.
When: Wednesday, February 22 at 4pm
Where: Orchard Park Community Center

**Rose Windows**
Beautify a window with these hand-made sun catchers! We’ll use colorful tissue paper to make round translucent paper art resembling patterned stained glass. These will range from super-easy to advanced, so both kids and adults are welcome to participate. **Kids under 7 must attend with an adult helper.**
For questions, please contact

When: Wednesday, February 29 at 4pm
Where: Solano 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 1 - Birth of Langston Hughes [U.S.A.]
Black writer. Hughes emerged as a leader of the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s and became the most influential Black writer of his time. His poetry, which drew on the traditional Black art forms of spirituals, blues, and jazz, won an especially wide audience, but Hughes also distinguished himself as a writer of fiction, drama, essays, and history. (1902)

February 8 - Kitchen God Celebration [China, Taiwan, Southeast Asia, U.S.A.]
This observation is a traditional farewell ceremony for T’sao Zang, Prince of the Oven. Many Chinese homes have a picture of the Kitchen God hanging above the stove; throughout the year, the Kitchen God watches over the household from his altar in the kitchen and observes the family activities. The twenty-third day of the twelfth lunar month is when the Kitchen God is sent back to heaven, where the following day, he will report on the behavior of each family member to the Jade Emperor. The sending off ceremony is very important; sweet foods like sugar, preserved winter melon, and malt sugar candy are offered by family members to "bribe" T’sao Zang so that he may present a sweetened version of their deeds or misdeeds — dried grass and water are also offered to the horse that serves as the Kitchen God’s transport. T’sao Zang is sent to heaven by burning his image; the smoke rising to the heavens represents his journey to the Jade Emperor. A new picture of him is then placed above the stove for the coming year.

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. (1809)

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 19 - Beginning of Japanese Internment [U.S.A.]
On this date, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order requiring the removal of most persons of Japanese ancestry from the West coast to internment camps in rural Arizona, Colorado, Arkansas, California, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. This act, a response to anti-Japanese feeling in the country after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, uprooted 112,000 people, including 71,000 US citizens. (1942)
# Calendar of Events

## February 2012

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

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<td><strong>Craft Hour</strong>&lt;br&gt;SPCC 4pm</td>
<td><strong>Bouncy Fun</strong>&lt;br&gt;Grass near 3900 building 2pm</td>
<td><strong>Lunar New Year Potluck</strong>&lt;br&gt;SPCC 5:30pm</td>
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<td><strong>Lunar New Year Potluck</strong>&lt;br&gt;OPCC 6pm</td>
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<td><strong>Felt Valentine</strong>&lt;br&gt;SPCC 4pm</td>
<td><strong>Ping Pong Night</strong>&lt;br&gt;OPCC 7pm</td>
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<td><strong>Valentine Craft and Card Making</strong>&lt;br&gt;OPCC 4:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Cooking Class</strong>&lt;br&gt;SPCC 5pm</td>
<td><strong>Friendship Bracelets</strong>&lt;br&gt;OPCC 4:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Pizza Night</strong>&lt;br&gt;SPCC 5:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Volcanoes</strong>&lt;br&gt;OPCC 2pm</td>
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<td><strong>HOLIDAY PARKS OFFICES CLOSED</strong>&lt;br&gt;Making Puppets SPCC 4pm</td>
<td><strong>Rose Windows</strong>&lt;br&gt;OPCC 4pm</td>
<td><strong>Cross Stitch for Adults</strong>&lt;br&gt;SPCC 7pm</td>
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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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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 spring quarter/semester in the coming months. Please contact Student Housing at 530-752-2033 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.