



2008 Beijing Olympics



Performed by JCA artists, Jacksonville, FL

A vertical poster for the 2009 Chinese New Year Gala. The title "2009年春节联欢晚会" is written in large, stylized, golden characters. The background is a vibrant red and yellow gradient with floral patterns and a traditional Chinese lantern. The text "Hosted By: Jacksonville Chinese Association (JCA) www.usjca.org" and "Department of History, UNF" is at the bottom.

2009年春节联欢晚会

Hosted By:
Jacksonville Chinese
Association (JCA)
www.usjca.org

Department of History, UNF

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. The 15th day of the new year is called the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated at night with lantern displays and children carrying lanterns in a parade.

The Chinese calendar is based on a combination of lunar and solar movements. The lunar cycle is about 29.5 days. In order to "catch up" with the solar calendar the Chinese insert an extra month once every few years (seven years out of a 19-yearcycle). This is the same as adding an extra day on leap year. This is why, according to the solar calendar, the Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year.

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are celebrated as a family affair, a time of reunion and thanksgiving. The celebration was traditionally highlighted with a religious ceremony given in honor of Heaven and Earth, the gods of the household and the family ancestors.

The sacrifice to the ancestors

united the living members with those who had passed away. Departed relatives are remembered with great respect because they were responsible for laying the foundations for the fortune and glory of the family.

The spirits of the ancestors, together with the living, celebrate the onset of the New Year as one great community. The communal feast called "surrounding the stove" or weilu. It symbolizes family unity and honors the past and present generations. This holiday is celebrated internationally in areas with large ethnic Chinese population. It is considered to be a major holiday for Chinese as well as Mongolians, Koreans, the Miao (Chinese Hmong), Vietnamese, Tibetans, Nepalese and Bhutanese. These ethnic groups were influenced by Chinese culture in terms of philosophical and religious worldview, language, and culture in general.



Hosts: Jacksonville Chinese Association
Department of History, UNF
Location: Robinson Theatre
University of North Florida
4567 St. Johns Bluff Road South
Jacksonville, FL 32224

Date: Sunday, February 1, 2009
Time: 2:00-3:00pm New Year Meal
3:30-5:30pm Performance
Show

Admission: \$5.00 for member
\$8.00 for Non-member
\$3.00 Children under 12
New Year Meal included
Gate Ticket: \$5.00 (no meal)

Directions From I-95: Take
J. Turner Butler Blvd. east to
the St. Johns Bluff Road (9A)
exit and turn left. The University
of North Florida Drive exit is
approximately 1 mile. Turn right
to enter the campus. Robinson
Theatre parking garage will be
on the right.
Parking: FREE.

For event information and sponsorship
Call: 228-5407 or 571-4459
email: yfandjx@yahoo.com
Website: www.usjca.org