

Chinese and other New Year's Celebrations and Practices from around the world

The Culture Hour 2/8/2011 Discussion

The Chinese New Year and the Mongolian Lunar New Year were both celebrated last week. During The Culture Hour, we shared different customs and cultures from around the world:

CHINA: Nathan Huang and Yidan Li say that the dates change every year according to the moon calendar, and this year it was last week. It lasts several days and includes visiting family members, receiving money in red envelopes, the color red and...Some communities spend more than 80% of their annual income on the New Year's celebration (!!!!!)

MONGOLIA: Babu Batchuluun says it is celebrated at the same time as the Chinese New Year. There are very complicated and intricate traditions including roasting the whole back of a sheep and spending 50% of one's yearly income on the celebrations buying food and gifts-- hopefully Babu will post more here!

KENYA: Janek Sunga reports that New Year's Eve is celebrated December 31st and most Kenyans see the New Year as the end to Christmas. He personally has the tradition of watching CNN ring in the New Year around the world.

AMERICA: According to Hannah Meador and Carolyn Tragas, many Americans watch the countdown with the dropping of the ball in Times Square New York on December 31st, others watch movies with family and others play games; Kimberly's family has a tradition of gathering for a bowling tournament of January 1st as a way to celebrate the New Year

KOSRAE, FSM: Bertson Tilfas reports that New Year's is celebrated January 1st. They fill water balloons and throw them at people walking, biking or driving by (voted by the CH group as most unusual and fun custom!)

UZBEKISTAN: Rukhsora Rakhmatova reported that their New Year is celebrated in the spring -- the dates change every year. It consists of making a dish that takes 16 hours to prepare; eating it will bring you good luck and ward off evil for the year.

I hope others will chime in on their favorite **NEW YEAR'S TRADITIONS** and **CELEBRATIONS!!**



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