

# “Voyage to Vietnam: Celebrating the Tet Festival” opens February 9 at the Portland Children’s Museum

“Voyage to Vietnam: Celebrating the Tet Festival” is opening at the Portland Children’s Museum on Friday, February 9. The new exhibit, which was developed by the Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose, offers an opportunity to discover the beauty, sights, and sounds of Vietnam through its most important celebration of the year — *Tet* — the Vietnamese New Year.

While welcoming and celebrating the Year of the Dog this year, museum-goers are invited to view the Tet Festival in modern day Vietnam until May 6, 2018. Through interactive displays and trilingual signage (English, Vietnamese, and Spanish), visitors learn about the traditions, customs, and values exemplified by the annual celebration.

Youngsters and their caregivers enter “Voyage to Vietnam” at the start of the two-week celebration, when families go to the outdoor market to shop for fruits, vegetables, and other needed items. Often they’ll also buy a red carp, because in northern Vietnam there is a legend that says if a carp is released in a nearby river or pond, it will carry the kitchen gods to the Jade Emperor with a good report about your family.

After arriving back home, the newly purchased foods are prepared in an indoor or outdoor kitchen space. One of the special foods prepared are rice cakes — round ones in



northern Vietnam and square ones in the south. People also clean their homes thoroughly to begin the New Year with a fresh start.

Similar to most families in Vietnam, the residence in



**CELEBRATING TET.** “Voyage to Vietnam: Celebrating the Tet Festival” is opening at the Portland Children’s Museum on February 9. The new exhibit offers an opportunity to discover the beauty, sights, and sounds of Vietnam through hands-on interactive displays, including a lion dance (left photo), a family altar in honor of ancestors (right photo), and more. (Photos courtesy of the Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose)

“Voyage to Vietnam” has an altar that honors ancestors. After looking at the items on the altar — photos, an incense burner, candles, a tea set — guests young and old may try on *ao dai* (traditional clothing).

After spending time in the home, it’s time to go out into the community to celebrate. The interactive lion dance

*Continued on page 18*

**SPiLt ink Gallery**

Acrylic  
Colour Pencil  
Graphite  
Oil  
Pen & Ink  
Watercolour

Pets • Holidays • Special Occasions • Just for Fun  
www.spiltinkgallery.com (503) 442-6427

**Nourishment. Connection. Dignity.**

Volunteer to help Portland area seniors get the groceries they need.

Learn more at:  
StoretoDoorofOregon.org/volunteer/

**Black Pearl Acupuncture**  
Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine are great for:

- Acute/Chronic Pain (i.e. neck, back, sciatica & shoulder)
- Treating & Preventing the flu and colds
- Stress Relief
- Headaches/Migraines

www.blackpearlacupuncture.com

Sita Symonette  
Licensed Acupuncturist  
seasymonettea@gmail.com

Call to schedule an appointment: (503) 308-9363  
505 N.W. Ninth Ave., Portland, OR 97209

**LUNAR NEW YEAR**

**YEAR OF THE DOG**

Thursday, February 15th | Friday, February 16th | Saturday, February 17th

**Lucky Money Tree Drawings**  
Every hour between 12pm & 4am  
**\$10,000 in cash**

**Free Cookie and Candies!**

Feb 15 Lobster special | Feb 16 Duck special

**Red Envelopes with a Special Gift**

318 NW Pacific Hwy • La Center | 20 minutes north of Portland • Exit 16 off I-5 Find us on: facebook.