

## Journey with Newspapers In Education and Wing Luke Museum to Celebrate the New Year!

Asian Americans bring with them many holidays from their ancestral homelands. One of the most important celebrations is the New Year.

Learn about New Year's through the eyes of Barbara Bruecher, who grew up in Hawai'i and whose lineage includes Chinese, Portuguese and Native Hawai'ian ancestry. Barbara is currently a teacher in Seattle where she lives with her husband Kevin, son Trevor, and daughter Natalie.

## **NEW YEAR TRADITIONS**

Makahiki, the ancient Native Hawai'ian New Year, was a four month period beginning in November after the harvest. A time for giving thanks, it honored Lono, the Hawai'ian God of Harvest. Makahiki nearly disappeared from the islands, but is enjoying a renewed interest over the past decades.

As a child growing up on Oahu, Barbara learned about Makahiki in school. But New Year's Day in Hawai'i was on January 1st and included celebrations from around the Pacific Rim, reflecting the state's multicultural neighborhoods. Barbara remembers

the next generation.

with comfort."

fueled by hot rocks.

**KUPUNAHINE (GRANDMOTHER)** A poem by Natalie Bruecher

I love my maternal grandmother, Hannah And am thankful for all she has given to me.

Kupuna Hannah and I Share much with each other. We share things like music Or culture, or our lives. We share conversations across the Pacific Or across the room. But most importantly, we share love.

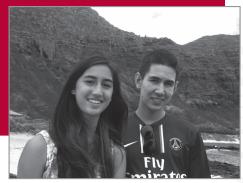
She taught me pono, She taught me oiai'o, And she is na'auao, a true kupuna. Parts of my childhood Unlock her past. She gave me my Hawaiian blood, But she also gave me My Hawaiian heart.

It was in Hawai'i that I learned what it really means To love ohana, To feel within my heart A place for them. Even after they're gone I feel their spirits with me.

**Chinatown-International District** 

Though miles away Kupuna and I can still discuss And when I hear her voice I think of her place at Punalu'u By the ocean. I hear the shallow waves of the North Shore, Strong yet calming. I think of plumerias And the geckos in her backyard that I used to try to catch With only a jar when I was young. I hear her ukulele That she is determined to play And I fall asleep to the notes. Rising and falling like the ocean waves And like my breaths

When I fall asleep.



Trevor and Natalie Bruecher in Hawaii. Photograph courtesy of Barbara Breucher. Hawai'ian words:

kupuna – grandparent; a title said before the name of a grandparent na'auao - wise/wisdom

her New Year's feast as a potpourri of Asian and Western foods. However, Native Hawai'ian foods were the central dishes, savored

and produced by her extended family so recipes could be taught to

Barbara credits her mother for preserving Native Hawai'ian culture

ordering luau leaves from the local market and preparing two kinds

The menu also included squid luau (octopus, taro leaves and coconut

milk), Iomi Iomi salmon (salted salmon with tomatoes and onions), poi

which was traditionally slow cooked in an imu, or underground oven,

In Seattle, Barbara prepares these recipes on New Year's Day to

connect her family to the rich heritage and community back in

children. Her daughter Natalie, has grown passionate about her

Native Hawaiian ancestry, and wrote a poem about her maternal

Hawai'i and transport a bit of Native Hawai'ian culture to her

(taro root paste) and haupia pie. Barbara's Aunty Charlotte prepared the

chicken long rice (chicken, ginger and noodles) and crock pot kalua pork,

of lau lau's (chicken or pork wrapped in taro and ti leaves and steamed).

through food. "I remember her cutting ti leaves from the yard,

Both included butter fish which made the eating experience rich

ohana – family

oiai'o - truth, honesty

pono - roughly "knowing what's best"

grandmother, which is shared here.

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Kick off Lunar New Year in the

Opening Celebration - Saturday, Jan. 25 Wing Luke Museum 8th Avenue South and South King Street wingluke.org

11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Lion Dance Lunar New Year Fair with zodiac scavenger hunt, crafts, games and more!

Celebrate Year of the Horse with a private tour. Customized for families, students and other groups, experience New Year traditions through cultural art activities and interactive storytelling. For more info, contact tours@wingluke.org or 206.623-5124 ext 133.







