

Celebrate the Year of the Rooster with The Wing!



### MAKAHIKI GAMES

Make a field day of your own to celebrate the Makahiki season by playing these Native Hawaiian Games.

<p><b>Hākā moa: Chicken Fight</b></p>	<p>Two players stand on one leg while holding the other leg in their hands. The other hand holds their belt loop or is put behind their back. The two players stand in a ring and chest bump each other till one player drops their foot or gets knocked out of the ring. Last chicken standing wins!</p>
<p><b>Ulu'maika: Stone Bowling</b></p>	<p>Two sticks are placed six inches apart on a flat playing field that is around 15 feet long (distance can be changed to suit the player's ages and skills). For points, players take turns rolling a <b>maika</b>, a rounded bowling stone, through the sticks at the other side of the field. Stones or balls can be used as <b>maika</b> substitutes. The player with the most points at the end of the game wins!</p>
<p><b>No'a: Pebble Hiding</b></p>	<p>A perfect game for younger kids. Two teams of five sit on opposite rows with piles of <b>kapa</b>, or cloth sheets, between the rows. The starting team is given one stone to hide underneath the <b>kapa</b> in front of them as the other team closes their eyes. The other team opens their eyes and tries to guess which <b>kapa</b> has the hidden stone. Traditionally the piles are chosen with a coconut leaf midrib, or <b>ni'au</b>, called a <b>maile</b> for the game. Correct first choices are given points and after each turn the pebble passes to the other team. The first team to reach five wins!</p>

# Journey with Newspapers in Education and Wing Luke Museum to learn how different Asian and Pacific Islander Americans celebrate the New Year.

One of the most important holidays for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans is the New Year.

Learn about the Hawaiian New Year, also known as **Makahiki**, through the experiences of Rayann Kalei Onzuka, who grew up on the Hawaiian Island of O'ahu. Rayann is a Tahitian and Polynesian dance teacher for young students around the Seattle area who performs with her group, Huraiti Mana. A teacher and a leader, her classes are open to all students interested in physical strength and cultural empowerment. She is proud of her mixed heritage that includes Chinese, Japanese, Native Hawaiian and Black ancestry.

### MAKAHIKI TRADITIONS

Rayann remembers learning Native Hawaiian traditions, history and language while going to Kamehameha Schools in Hawaii from elementary through high school. The Kamehameha schools are dedicated to connecting young Native Hawaiian students with their history after Hawaii's Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop saw her culture being erased from the islands.

Rayann was taught how Makahiki was celebrated by her ancestors. "Makahiki is four months long, when the stars, more widely known as the Pleiades, were in the sky—as long as they were in the sky it was Makahiki season," she recalls.

"Makahiki begins with a **ho'okupu**, a gift offering, and you would give that to the Hawaiian god, **Lono**. Lono is the god of agriculture, fertility and peace. Your **ho'okupu** starts with a wrap of **la'i** or ti leaves and you would wrap different kinds of foods like **kalo** (taro) and **'ulu** (breadfruit)." The **ho'okupu** would thank **Lono** for the harvest which had just finished. It would also give good luck for the upcoming New Year.

After the offering to **Lono**, a four month period of peace began throughout the island. War and hard labor were banned but healthy competition was not! During Makahiki, there were sports competitions that celebrated feats of strength and skill.



Rayann Onzuka dances with 'uli 'uli in hand. 'Uli 'uli are gourd rattles decorated with beautiful feathers and are shaken to highlight the beats of the mele, traditional native Hawaiian songs, chants and poems.

### A MODERN MAKAHIKI

Rayann is thankful that she was able to learn about traditions like Makahiki in school. "Makahiki is not that well known or celebrated as it was traditionally, even among our island communities," according to Rayann.

"Foreigners arrived—bringing disease, different ways of life, and introducing different foods to our culture. Native Hawaiian traditions, language, and communities were threatened and almost lost."

Through celebrations and teachings, the values of Makahiki live on through adaptation. Makahiki became a sports and field day that took place once a year at Rayann's school. Native Hawaiian games took center stage as students competed for awards and glory.

"When Makahiki came around, I was always super pumped because it was a day that I could just compete, I could run around and be me... it was all in good nature. I got to play games the way that my ancestors had done," Rayann remembers.

For Rayann, "Makahiki highlights how strong the Hawaiian people are and how they value physical health, healthy competition, sports—and peace. I think that those are not usually attributed to the Hawaiian people... There is a long history of negative stereotypes against Hawaiian people as being lazy... Makahiki proves that it was not the case."

This article is geared for grades K-5. The Teacher's Guide includes extension plans for these articles along with lesson plans.



Rayann, her sister Brandi Onzuka and friend Erin Lloyd performs hula at the International Examiner's Community Voice Awards. Photo by Joel Aguiar

**LUNAR NEW YEAR  
OPENING CELEBRATION**  
Wing Luke Museum  
8th Ave S. and S. King St.  
[wingluke.org/2017newyear](http://wingluke.org/2017newyear)

**Saturday, Jan. 28**  
11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Featuring a Lion Dance (11 a.m.) and family-friendly activities including story-time, stuffed animal petting zoo, face painting, and kids' scavenger hunt with prizes! **Children and students (with ID) are free. The event is sponsored by The Vietnamese-American Bar Association of Washington.**

**SEATTLE CHINATOWN — INTERNATIONAL  
DISTRICT ANNUAL LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL**  
Hing Hay Park  
Maynard Ave S. and S. King St.  
[cidbia.org/events](http://cidbia.org/events)

**Sunday, Jan. 29**  
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Learn more about The Wing's current **New Years All Year Round Exhibit** featuring Hawaiian, Chinese American and Lao American New Year celebrations through an interactive tour for Pre-K through third grade. For more information, including other tour options for all ages, email [tours@wingluke.org](mailto:tours@wingluke.org).