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Good Luck Life: The Essential Guide To Chinese American Celebrations And Culture



Synopsis

Good Luck Life is the first book to explain the meanings of Chinese rituals and to offer advice on when and how to plan for Chinese holidays and special occasions such as Chinese weddings, the Red Egg and Ginger party to welcome a new baby, significant birthdays, and the inevitable funeral. Packed with practical information, Good Luck Life contains an abundance of facts, legends, foods, old-village recipes, and quick planning guides for Chinese New Year, Clear Brightness, Dragon Boat, Mid-Autumn, and many other festivals. Written with warmth and wit, Good Luck Life is beautifully designed as an easily accessible cultural guide that includes an explanation of the Lunar Calendar, tips on Chinese table etiquette for dining with confidence, and dos and don'ts from wise Auntie Lao, who recounts ancient Chinese beliefs and superstitions. This is your map for celebrating a good luck life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A treasure chest...and a treasure, Good Luck Life is a compelling collection that's as fun to read as it is fascinating. You'll discover: *Rosemary Gong's graceful poetry and memories of Chinese-American celebrations* Legends and lore---secrets and significance---facts and history-to define each holiday* Recipes and check lists for creating your own authentic Chinese-American occasion My son and his Chinese-American wife just had a baby. Thanks to Good Luck Life, this Italian-American grandmother is already planning a Red Egg and Ginger Party to welcome her first grandchild! Starting from almost no knowledge about Chinese-American traditions, I was delighted

to discover this rich resource; you will be, too! Paola Gianturco

It's packed with information, from practical tips on what to do when you're invited to a Chinese-American wedding to how to get better service in a Chinese restaurant. Great stories and legends, too -- the book will make you far more aware of the depth of this fascinating culture. Highly recommended.

this is an excellent book in explaining whys, whats and hows in chinese cultural events. being 1/2 euro caucasian and 1/2 chinese and growing up with grandmother and father from china, i was always curious to why we did certain things and the reason why things are a certain way. this book explains all in detail and it also has EXCELLENT RECIPES for certain all time favorite dishes...this book made everything i grew up with become clear. this is a keeper on the shelf for future reference and to share with other family members and friends.

I love my mom, but sometimes it can be very trying to find out why we celebrate certain things. Since her English is not as good as her Chinese and my Chinese is not as good as my English. SO I know there is something lost in translation. If you are Cantonese especially of Toi San heritage, you will enjoy the book. Many of the celebrations will be familiar to you. My sister wanted me to buy 4 more copies so she could give it away to people who keep asking her questions on New Years celebrations. I usually had to ask our Mom now we just use the book.

She's put everything in this book that I remember about growing up American Chinese. Many of the traditions that we practiced were described in detail. She wrote down the meanings behind each one and filled in all the blanks that my family couldn't. From festivals, red egg and ginger parties, birthdays, weddings, funerals and all the little tidbits in between, it's in this book. Why we had to give offerings to the keeper at the entrance to the cemetery and why we had to wear all those different colors at funerals; everything is explained. Plus, she's included authentic recipes for festivals and special foods that are made for specific seasons throughout the year. I will be re-reading this book for my future children so they will know the customs and remember that they have a heritage that transcends time.

I enjoyed this book so much. It gave me an insight on my own culture. Growing up my parents did not teach us the language and some of the customs. Chinese New Years to me was family get

together and red packages. I never understood why we did or did not do certain things. This book gave me a generalization of my own culture. I would recommend this book to everyone.

I am a Chinese American and have always wondered about why we observed certain customs in my home. Lots of times when I asked my parents why we did the things we did they just said it was tradition. They did not go in to much detail as to the why. This book provided a lot of the answers that I had, and now I can pass them on to my children so now they can know why. Wonderful reference book.

My mother's family is Chinese, but we don't live near them and I've missed out on a lot of traditions and customs. At family events, I understand that certain things are always a part of the ceremony, but I've never understood the meanings behind these traditions. This book was easy to read and divided into clear sections. I loved it!

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