



LITTLE TOKYO

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

A program of the Little Tokyo Business Association

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2022: Year of the Tiger

Those born in 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, or 2010 are Tigers, according to the Japanese zodiac. Tigers are confident, courageous, ambitious, generous, and will help those in need. They can also be loners and dictators, which often prevents them from being good spouses and parents. Tiger-born individuals may be gregarious and have lots of acquaintances, but they have very few real friends.



2022 is the Year of the Water Tiger. The last time there was a Water Tiger year was in 1962. Water Tigers tend to prefer a quiet and peaceful home life. However, they must learn to be patient and express their love for others.

OSHOGATSU

Japanese people throughout the world as well as many Japanese Americans observe the traditions and customs of **Oshogatsu**, the New Year celebration observed on January 1st. Other Asian countries, including China, Korea, and Vietnam observe the Lunar New Year, which will occur on Tuesday, February 1, 2022.



CLEANSING: It is important to have the house cleaned and debts paid before the end of the year. In some households, children wear new clothes on New Year's Day.

HATSUMODE: This tradition involves the first visit of the year to a temple or shrine. In Japan, people arrive from midnight through to the next morning to express gratitude for the past year and to pray for guidance and protection for the new year.

OMAMORI: This good luck symbol is given to temple visitors, who also receive an **OFUDA**, a thin strip of wood wrapped in paper with the name of a god written on it. Each year, the *ofuda* is then placed near the door of a house or office building for good luck and protection.

BELLS: Buddhist temple bells are rung 108 times on New Year's Eve, signifying the end of one year and the beginning of the next.

KAGAMI MOCHI: This display is made by stacking a small, round rice cake (mochi) on top of a larger one. The mochi is then placed on a sheet of white paper depicting the seven gods and other good luck symbols. Often, a tangerine is placed on top of the mochi, symbolizing "generation to generation." The mochi should be displayed before New Year's Eve and eaten soon after.

NEW YEAR FOODS: *OSECHI RYORI*

Certain dishes are served on New Year's Day, symbolic of good fortune, long life, health, and success. Recipes were handed down from one generation to the next. Often, preparation takes several days. Today, however, it is not uncommon for families to purchase these special foods, known as *osechi ryori*, already prepared from a restaurant or supermarket.



OZONI: This special soup is traditionally served for breakfast on New Year's Day. Representing strength and prosperity, it consists of mochi cakes, vegetables, and abalone or fish.

KAZUNOKO: Herring roe, or caviar, is lightly seasoned with kelp (*katsuo*) dashi, or soup base, and soy sauce. Mix the ingredients together and allow the herring roe to marinate in the light dashi broth. Kazunoko represents fertility and a wish for many children or grandchildren in the year ahead.

KUROMAME: These black beans with chestnuts symbolize good health and success.

KONBU MAKI: This Okinawan-style dish consists of seaweed stuffed with chicken or pork and represents happiness. *Konbu* is a play on the word, *yorokobu*, which means "to be happy,"

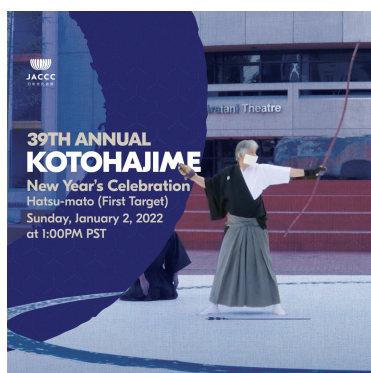
HASU: Sliced lotus root resembles the shape of a wheel and is symbolic of the wheel of life.

TAI and SUSHI: Tai, or red snapper, represents good health and happiness. Sushi is also an important part of the New Year's Day meal.

MOCHI TSUKI: Although mochi pounding is often done by machine at home or purchased ready-made from a store, some families still gather to pound glutinous rice during the New Year celebration as their ancestors did. The sticky rice is then shaped into a round piece resembling a mirror, one of three ancient imperial treasures. It represents wealth.

SAKE BARREL BREAKING: *KAGAMI BIRAKI*

The ceremonial breaking of a sake barrel will kick off the Oshogatsu (New Year) celebration at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022 onstage at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center's Noguchi Plaza. During the ceremony, dignitaries are invited to break open the lid of a sake barrel, using a wooden mallet. The sake is served to everyone present.



JACCC ANNOUNCES VIRTUAL KOTOHAJIME

The Japanese American Cultural & Community will present the *Kotohajime* on Sunday, Jan. 2 **virtually** from 12 noon to 9 p.m. This time-honored tradition is intended to help transcend everyday existence, escape discomfort, and cope with uncertainty through sacred music and dance en route to spiritual awakening. The ceremony asks, "What will 2022 become?"

2022 New Year Celebrations

2 DAYS SPECIAL

in LITTLE TOKYO

LOS ANGELES

12/31/2021 (Fri)

12PM-7PM

@JACCC

Japanese American Cultural &
Community Center

1/1/2022 (Sat)

10AM-4PM

@JACCC &

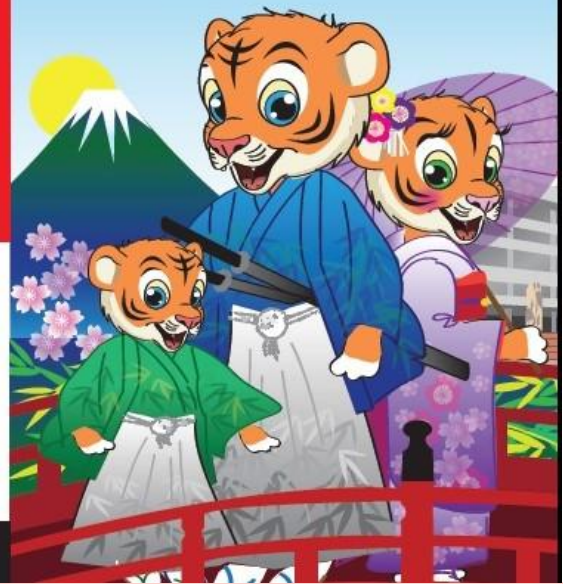
@Japanese Village Plaza

WWW.LAJAPAN.COM

大みそか お正月

2021 New Year's Eve / 2022 New Year

in LITTLE TOKYO



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