

December 30, 2011

Lion Dancers to perform at library's Chinese New Year celebration

Celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year with the Mak Fai Washington Kung Fu dancers from Seattle performing the traditional Lion Dance. The celebration takes place after hours at the [Olympia Timberland Library](#) on Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m.



Accompanied by live music, the dancers will interpret the movements of a pair of lions, incorporating moves taught by Mak Hin Fai Sifu, Kung Fu Master, in the Choy Lay Fut style Kung Fu martial art. The dancers will take questions from the audience after the performance.

According to Master Mak, Lion is believed to be a goddess who casts away evil spirits and brings good fortune and good health. Colorful, dramatic and exciting to watch, the Lion Dance is a custom traceable back to the Tong Dynasty (618 - 907 AD).

“The basic martial art in Lion Dance requires not only one's waist and foot exercise, but also the strength to hold the lion head for a long period of time. A good lion dance performer should be able to make the lion look real, with emphasis on its expression, actions and form... The key to successful lion-dancing is in the mastery of passion of the art, which translates to self-forgetting,” wrote Master Mak in an email to library staff.

Mak's Lion Dance teams have performed at events such as the Safeco Field open-house and Seattle Music Festival “Folk Life” opening. The Web page for the dance is <http://www.makskungfu.com/liondance/LionDance.html>.

The Olympia Timberland Library is at 313 8th Avenue. For more information, call the library at (360) 352-0595 or go to www.TRL.org.