



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

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## **News from: The Office of Mayor Jean Quan**

### **For Immediate Release**

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## **USA Today Names Oakland Among Top 10 Places for Lunar New Years Celebrations**

Oakland, CA---- This week [USA Today](#) listed Oakland's Chinatown as one of the top 10 places to celebrate the Lunar New Year, following on the heels of the *New York Times* listing Oakland as #5 in its [annual 45 Places to go to in 2012](#), earlier this month.

In the article, author Bonnie Tsui, author of *American Chinatown: A People's History of Five Neighborhoods* (Free Press, \$15) describes Oakland as "It feels less touristy (than San Francisco), a real place."

"Last year at my Inauguration, I asked people to 'Take a Fresh Look at Oakland'. Clearly, they are," said Mayor Jean Quan, noting that just this week Allegiant Air, known for its low-cost fares, inaugurated low-cost, nonstop flights between Oakland International Airport (OAK) and Phoenix via Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (IWA).

"For the last several years, the tourist industry has been promoting Oakland as a great destination. More and more people are taking note of our central location, hot new restaurants and great neighborhoods. Oakland, with its great diversity, is truly 'home to the world,'" she said.

She added that last year, more than 9 million visitors came through the Oakland Airport.

Locals can celebrate the Lunar New Year this week with events at the **Oakland Museum of California's Lunar New Year Celebration and Other Asian Traditions** on Sunday, January 29 from Noon to 4:30 pm ([www.museumca.org](http://www.museumca.org)) and the **Oakland Asian Cultural Center's Lunar New Year Celebration** on Saturday, February 4, from 11 am to 4:30 pm. ([www.oac.com](http://www.oac.com)).

Locals can also check out the buzz on local restaurants. Oakland's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Restaurant Week runs through January 29 with special prix fixe menus lunch and dinner deals at more than two dozen local restaurants. For details go to [VisitOakland.org/restaurantweek2012.cfm?](http://VisitOakland.org/restaurantweek2012.cfm?)

The Mayor features local restaurants and retail venues in her weekly newsletter, *A Fresh Look at Oakland*, under the 25% Shop Oakland Solution section. You can sign up for free at [www.jeanquan.org](http://www.jeanquan.org).

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