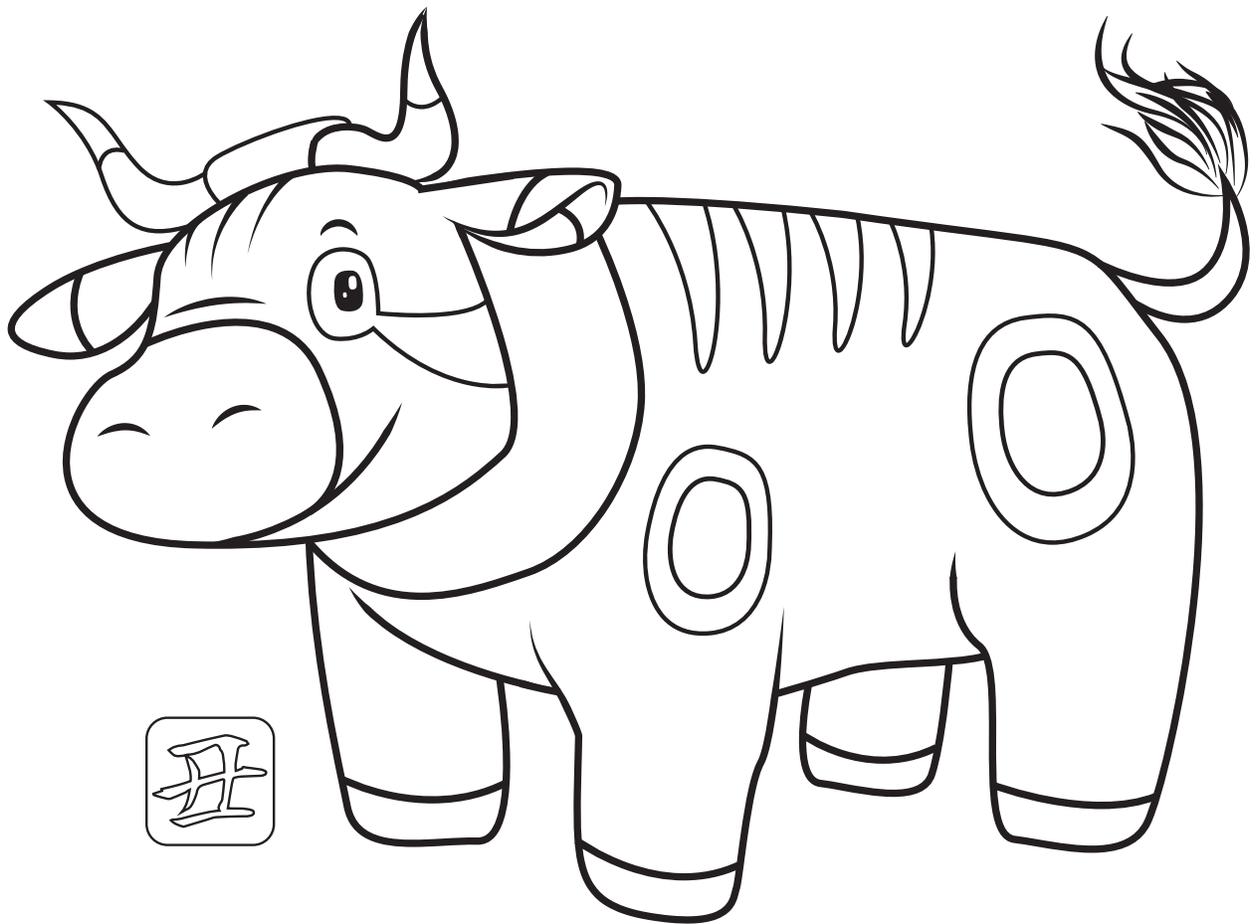


# OSHOOGATSU VIRTUAL FAMILY FESTIVAL 2021



**Year of the Ox**

# OSHOGATSU

## VIRTUAL FAMILY FESTIVAL

January 3–8, 2021

Welcome the Year of the Ox with a week of virtual, kid-friendly activities to celebrate the New Year!

Find us @jamuseum on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram! Use our special **Oshogatsu** Instagram filters (search “JANM Oshogatsu”) and tag us with your results or use the hashtag #JANMOshogatsu to share how you’re celebrating with us from home!

The virtual festival is sponsored in part by:



Media Sponsor:

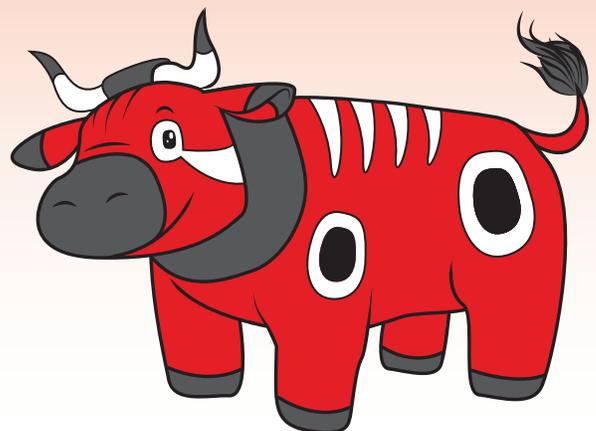


### Are you the Year of the Ox?

Recent years of the ox are: 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, and 2021.

People born in the year of the ox are **hardworking, kind, and honest.**

Design Rosie Yasukochi  
Cover Illustration Ridge Hirano



# ONGOING ACTIVITIES

## Year of the Ox Scavenger Hunt

Explore your neighborhood and our website with a scavenger hunt! Email us a picture of your completed scavenger hunt and get entered into a raffle for free passes to visit the museum when we re-open or other ox-themed prizes! Download the scavenger hunt [HERE](#).

Email your completed pages to [publicprograms@janm.org](mailto:publicprograms@janm.org) along with your first name in order to be entered into the contest.

## Year of the Ox Coloring Page

Print the cover of this booklet [HERE](#) and use it as a coloring page! Share your designs with us on social media using the hashtag **#JANMOshogatsu**.

## Membership Raffle!

Make sure to participate in special events throughout the week for a chance to win a **FREE** year of membership!

Each day of activities, Sunday through Friday, leave a comment answering the Question of the Day on the Youtube video, YouTube livestream, or Zoom event to be entered into the raffle! The Question of the Day can be found in the video description or program content each day. All comments on any of these platforms must be posted by 5 p.m. (PST) on Friday, January 8, 2021. Limit one entry per household per video/program. Learn more about JANM membership at [janm.org/membership](http://janm.org/membership).

# SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

## Sunday, January 3: Oshogatsu Kickoff

12 pm (PST)

Kick off our week of *Oshogatsu* festivities with highlights of New Year-themed activities and an interactive overview of the week of celebration! Watch on our **YOUTUBE** channel.

## Monday, January 4: Education Craft Corner

10 am (PST)

Create a cute ox to celebrate the new year using only the supplies found around your house! Watch on our **YOUTUBE** channel.

### At Home Activity

Check out our **INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES**, like this origami **FROG (KAERU)** (recommended ages 13+) or an origami **KORI BASKET** (recommended for all ages)!

## Tuesday, January 5: Oshogatsu, Unboxed

10 am (PST)

Take a peek into the Japanese American National Museum's permanent collection to see artifacts related to celebrating the New Year with this special behind the scenes video! Watch on our **YOUTUBE** channel.

### At Home Activity - "Tell Your Story: Create a (mini) Collection"

Take inspiration from the storytelling in JANM's exhibition, *Common Ground: The Heart of Community*, to choose and display objects, images, and documents that hold meaning to you and your family's story. Download activity **HERE!**

# SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

## Wednesday, January 6: Storytime with JANM

2 pm (PST) - Multilingual Story Time

Join us for a multilingual storytime in English, Spanish, and Japanese of a traditional Japanese folk tale, *Issun-boshi*! Although *Issun-boshi* is only one-inch tall, his bravery and wit take him on adventures both big and small! Watch on our **YOUTUBE** channel.

### At Home Activity

Read your favorite story out loud to your family, pets, stuffed animals, or plants and, with an adult, explore more Japanese folk tales and Japanese American stories from the **JANM STORE** or your local library!

## Thursday, January 7: *Question 27, Question 28*

2 pm (PST)

Part of JANM's mission is to share the Japanese American experience in all of its complicated details. Join **ARTISTS AT PLAY LA** for a virtual performance of *Question 27, Question 28*, a play by Chay Yew and directed by Jully Lee about struggle, courage, and resilience during World War II. They will be presenting an abridged version which has been shortened and edited for children. **RSVPs are required. RSVP [HERE!](#)**

## Friday, January 8: Friday Food

1 pm (PST) - MEMBER EXCLUSIVE: BEHIND THE SCENES AT AZAY!

Current JANM Members are invited for an exclusive, behind the scenes tour of a restaurant during the busiest holiday of the year!...

## SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

...**AZAY LITTLE TOKYO**, with Chef Akira Hirose, will show the process of developing and preparing their special Oshogatsu menu. RSVPs are required. RSVP **HERE**.

2 pm (PST)

Join us for a conversation around traditional *Oshogatsu* foods, like *osechi-ryori* and *ozoni*, and a space to share about your food-related traditions. Then, join special guests from local businesses and restaurants in Little Tokyo to chat about how they share *Oshogatsu* recipes and traditions today! Watch on our **YOUTUBE** channel.

## DISCOVER NIKKEI

**Discover Nikkei: Share your Nikkei Oshogatsu photos!**

In conjunction with Oshogatsu Virtual Family Festival, JANM's Discover Nikkei is compiling photos to share our global Nikkei community's New Year traditions. We want to see all your favorite dishes, family gatherings, or special traditions that you use to ring in the new year! Photos can be from past years or to share how you are finding ways to celebrate this year despite the pandemic.

To participate, photos must be submitted with brief descriptions by January 8, 2021 to [editor@DiscoverNikkei.org](mailto:editor@DiscoverNikkei.org) or uploaded directly to the Nikkei Album. Click **HERE** for complete submission guidelines or to see photos that have been submitted.

# FUN JAPANESE NEW YEAR TRADITIONS

A very popular custom is the sending of **festive New Year's cards, called *nengajo***, which are specially marked to be delivered on January 1st so you have to make sure to get them in the mail by December and mark them specially as “nenga.” You should try to have them delivered no later than January 3rd when the traditional New Year's holiday ends in Japan, though some say that no later than January 7th, because that is when ***Matsu-no-Uchi***, the time period that the sprite of new Year stays at your house, ends. Dating back to the Heian period in Japan (794–1185), the New Year's cards are used to let people know you appreciate them and to stay in touch with people far away. In this time when we can't be physically together, sending cards is a great way to say hello to those you love!

Another very important part of Japanese New Year is ***mochitsuki, or mochi making!*** Steamed rice is pounded within a special wooden container called an “*usu*,” using a mallet called a “*kine*.” The fresh mochi is then eaten for good luck on its own or in *ozoni*, special New Year's soup. To see a demonstration of *mochitsuki* by Kodama Taiko, check out the Oshogatsu 2021 kickoff on our **YOUTUBE** channel!

Mochi can also be found in *kagami mochi*, a traditional New Year's decoration. It always consists of stacked white mochi with an orange on top, but can often include additional

elaborate decoration. It is said to bring luck and longevity to the family.

**The house must be cleaned** before New Year's Day. The cleaning is called *Susuharai*, or soot-sweeping. Both inside and outside the house, the stains, physical and spiritual, of the past year are rubbed out in order to purify the home and make it fresh for the New Year.

Many people believe that January 1 is **representative of the upcoming year**. Therefore, the day is supposed to be full of joy and free of stress and anger, while everything should be clean and no work will need to be done!

## What is Osechi-Ryori?

Japanese New Year's food is called *osechi-ryori*. These highly specific foods are displayed in colorful dishes and packed in layers of lacquer boxes, called *jubako*. This tradition dates back to the Heian period (794-1185). Each dish and ingredient in *osechi* has meaning, such as good health, fertility, good harvest, happiness, prosperity, and long life. The kinds of *osechi* dishes eaten in Japanese homes vary from region to region.

Traditionally, New Year's is a time of rest. People finish cooking *osechi* dishes by New Year's Eve so that they have food for a couple days. It's custom to eat *osechi-ryori* throughout the New Year's holidays (until January 3rd).

# OSHOGATSU FOODS

## Toshikoshi Soba

On New Year's Eve, you have to eat *toshikoshi soba* ("year-crossing" buckwheat noodles). The length of the noodles symbolizes longevity. And with soba, it's okay to slurp your noodles!



## Ozoni

*Ozoni* is a traditional Japanese soup that is supposed to be the first thing you eat in the New Year. It has a light broth, cooked veggies, and squishy *mochi*. Each family has a slightly different recipe, often influenced by where in Japan their family immigrated from!



## Kuromame

*Mame* means both "soybean" and "good health and hard work" in Japanese. Eating these black soybeans on New Year's Day as part of *osechi* is thought to bring good health in work and life in the coming year. The color black is also considered a protection against evil spirits.



# OSECHIGATSU FOODS

## Kohaku Namasu

This *osechi* dish is prepared with *daikon* (Japanese radish) and carrots seasoned in vinegar. In Japanese, *kohaku* means red and white. These colors signify happiness and celebration. *Namasu* means the dish is pickled with vinegar.



## Atsuyaki Tamago

This thick, sweetened fried egg is important to *osechi* because yellow colored foods are often symbolic of prosperity. Some *atsuyaki tamago* look similar to another *osechi* dish, *datemaki*, a sweet rolled omelet that represents scholarship because of its resemblance to scrolled papers associated with culture and learning.



## Kinpira Gobo

This *osechi* dish has braised *gobo* and carrot. *Gobo* is a long root called burdock that represents long, stable health and an abundant harvest. This is one *osechi* food that is eaten all year long!



# OSHOGATSU FOODS

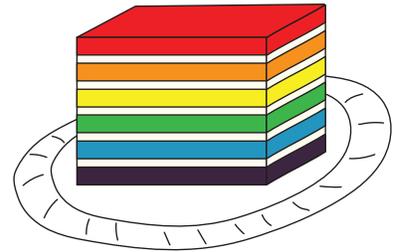
## Kamaboko

Eye catching in an *osechi* display, these fish cakes are shaped like the rising sun to represent the first sunrise of the New Year. The red color is also believed to prevent evil spirits, while the white represents purity.



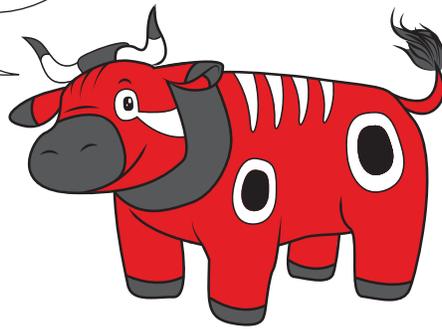
## Rainbow “7-Layer” Jell-O

A beloved staple in many Japanese American potlucks, this sweet and colorful dessert takes a lot of patience to make as each layer must be set separately in the fridge.



## CELEBRATE WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Go to **@jamuseum** on  
Instagram to use our filter  
to find out what Oshogatsu  
food you are!



[janm.org/oshogatsu2021](http://janm.org/oshogatsu2021)

[#JANMOshogatsu](https://twitter.com/JANMOshogatsu)



[@jamuseum](https://www.instagram.com/jamuseum)



[@janmdotorg](https://www.youtube.com/janmdotorg)

*Thank you to our members, donors, and participants for your support.  
We look forward to presenting more programs and exhibitions when  
we reopen later this year!*

*Visit [janm.org](http://janm.org) to learn more about how to support JANM, as well as  
educational resources and upcoming programming.*