

Hungry Ghost Festival



The seventh month of the lunar calendar is the Ghost Month

According to Taoist belief, on the last day of the sixth lunar month, the gates of Hell opens up and the ghosts and restless spirits (to include those of deceased ancestors) are free to roam the human world. It is said that these ghosts are looking for food and entertainment and if not appeased, will resort to mischief. Therefore on the 15th day of the seventh lunar month a Hungry Ghost Festival is held. It is commonly celebrated by leaving out food for the hungry ghosts and the burning of joss paper (faux money) and other offerings for their use in the afterlife. Unlike Ching Ming which one would pay respects to ones ancestors, the Hungry Ghost Festival is for all those who are deceased. At the end of the month it is traditional to light a paper lotus and float it down a river or in the ocean so the spirits can find its way back to the underworld.



Our Tin Hau Temple will celebrate the Hungry Ghost Festival with a Taoist priest who will perform the rituals to placate the restless ghosts, feeding them and sending them money (Siu Yee). Similar ghost festivals are held throughout Asia. In Japan, it is called the Bon Festival or Obon.

Here is the food that was prepared for the ghost feeding ceremony:



Hawaiian food is prepared in honor of the many Hawaiians who had for centuries lived on the land where Lum Sai Ho Tong building sits. After the ceremony the food was given to the homeless.