



# The Celebration of Vietnamese Tet



Hoa Mai

The Vietnam Center cordially invites you to celebrate Tết, the Vietnamese New Year with us on **Friday, January 27, 2006.**

**The party will be from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Formby Room of the Southwest Collections Building.**

Come sample Vietnamese cuisine and learn about the culture.



Hoa Đào

*“Mừng Xuân”* – “Welcome the Spring”  
*“Mừng Năm Mới”* – “Welcome the New Year”

January 29, 2006 ushers in the Year of the Dog. In Vietnam, each year is “sponsored” by one of 12 animals of the Vietnamese zodiac. First is the rat, followed by the buffalo, tiger, cat, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and lastly, the pig. Every 12 years, sponsorship reverts to the same animal – this year being the Dog’s turn. In Vietnam, the Dog is considered loyal, faithful, honest, and have the most profound sense of duty. People born in the Year of the Dog are honest, faithful and sincere. They respect tradition and value honor, and enjoy helping people. The Dog is very righteous, and always is the first to speak out against injustice. He is not good at socializing with friends, and rarely shines in company, but he is intelligent, caring and a good listener.

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Tết is regarded as the most important Vietnamese holiday.

Prior to celebrations, homes are cleaned, painted, and decorated.

Cleaning during Tết is avoided so that good luck will not be “swept away.”

Symbolizing the sense and beauty of the New Year, yellow Hoa Mai (flowers) in the South and pink Hoa Đào (flowers) in the North bring Tết’s atmosphere to every home. Besides fruits, Bánh Chung (square sticky rice cake in the North) and Bánh Tét (round sticky rice cake in the South), as traditional food for Tết, are on all houses’ altars.

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