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Alameda County
Supervisor Keith Carson, Fifth District

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PRESS RELEASE

Annual Lunar New Year Celebration – Year of the Ox



Photo 1 (left) – Bori Ha, Sabrina Kim, and Gi Youn Lee. Youth from the Ong Dance Company perform one of Korea’s most famous drum dances, Sam Go Mu. The dancers exert all parts of their body to create the drum sounds, incorporating graceful yet powerful acrobatic movement to symbolize the merging of spirit and earth.

Photo 2 (right) – from left to right: Alameda County Administrator Susan Muranishi, Supervisor Carson’s Senior Aide Mina Sanchez, BART Department Manager Customer Services Julie Yim, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, and President of the East Bay Korean-American Senior Service Center Joanna Selby.

Alameda County, BART, The Asian Community Collaborative and The Oakland Asian Cultural Center worked together to produce the annual Lunar New Year Celebration on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center in Chinatown.

Over 250 elementary students and 100 County and BART employees enjoyed performances by special guest performers: The San Francisco Wushu and Lion Dance Team, Lincoln Elementary School’s Purple Bamboo Orchestra and the Korean Senior Choir. As well as performances by OACC resident artists: Winnie Wong playing the guzheng (traditional Chinese instrument), Buddhists Monks demonstrating Kung Fu, and The Ong Dance Company performing traditional Korean drum dance.

“It is important to celebrate and share the riches of the various Asian Pacific Islander cultures we have in Alameda County,” says Supervisor Keith Carson, “The Lunar New Year Celebration allows us to get a taste of the various traditions in our Asian Pacific Islander communities while respecting their diversity and embracing their individuality.”

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Photos by Aisha Brown

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