

### **The Sacred:**

*Exploring a variety of religious traditions and spiritual beliefs from around the world*

Unitarian Universalists accept different faiths and beliefs. We believe we grow spiritually by exploring different religions. We believe that you should be free to believe what you want. We believe we learn from other peoples' experiences and so can you.

In this session we will explore Teng Chieh the Chinese Lantern Festival – a Hindu and Buddhist celebration.



### **Chinese Lantern Festival**

*Teng Cheih or Yuan Xiao Jie*

The lantern festival is a 2000 year old Chinese tradition that closes out the Lunar New Year The Lantern Festival called Yuan Xiao Jie or Teng Cheih in Chinese takes place under a full moon and marks the end of the Chinese New Year celebrations.

This year was the year 4710 in the Chinese Lunar calendar and was the year of the dragon.



The Lantern Festival began as a religious holiday to honor Buddha. It is celebrated in China, Taiwan and Thailand and in immigrant Asian communities around the world. Celebrations include fireworks and folk dancing. Highlights include traditional performances of the dragon parade and the lion dance.

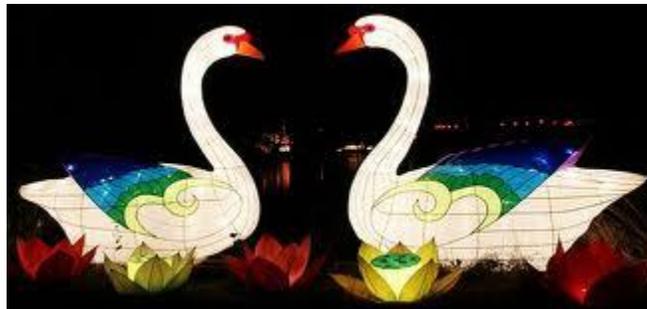


The special food associated with the lantern festival is *yuan xiao* or *Tang Yuan*, sweet stuffed dumpling made with sticky rice flour. *Tang yuan* are round in shape and resemble the full moon. *Tang yuan* symbolize family unity, completeness, and happiness.





People hang lanterns along street and around homes and carry them around parks and outside temples. Lanterns are very colorful and come in a variety of shapes.

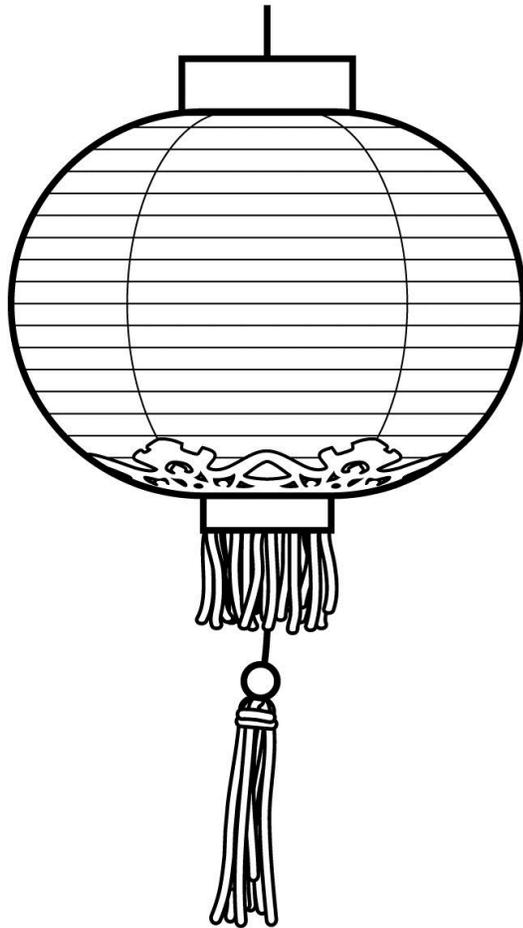


People write auspicious phrases on the lanterns to ward off evil spirits and to attract good ones. Some people decorate their lanterns with a riddle and offer a prize to the person who solves it.

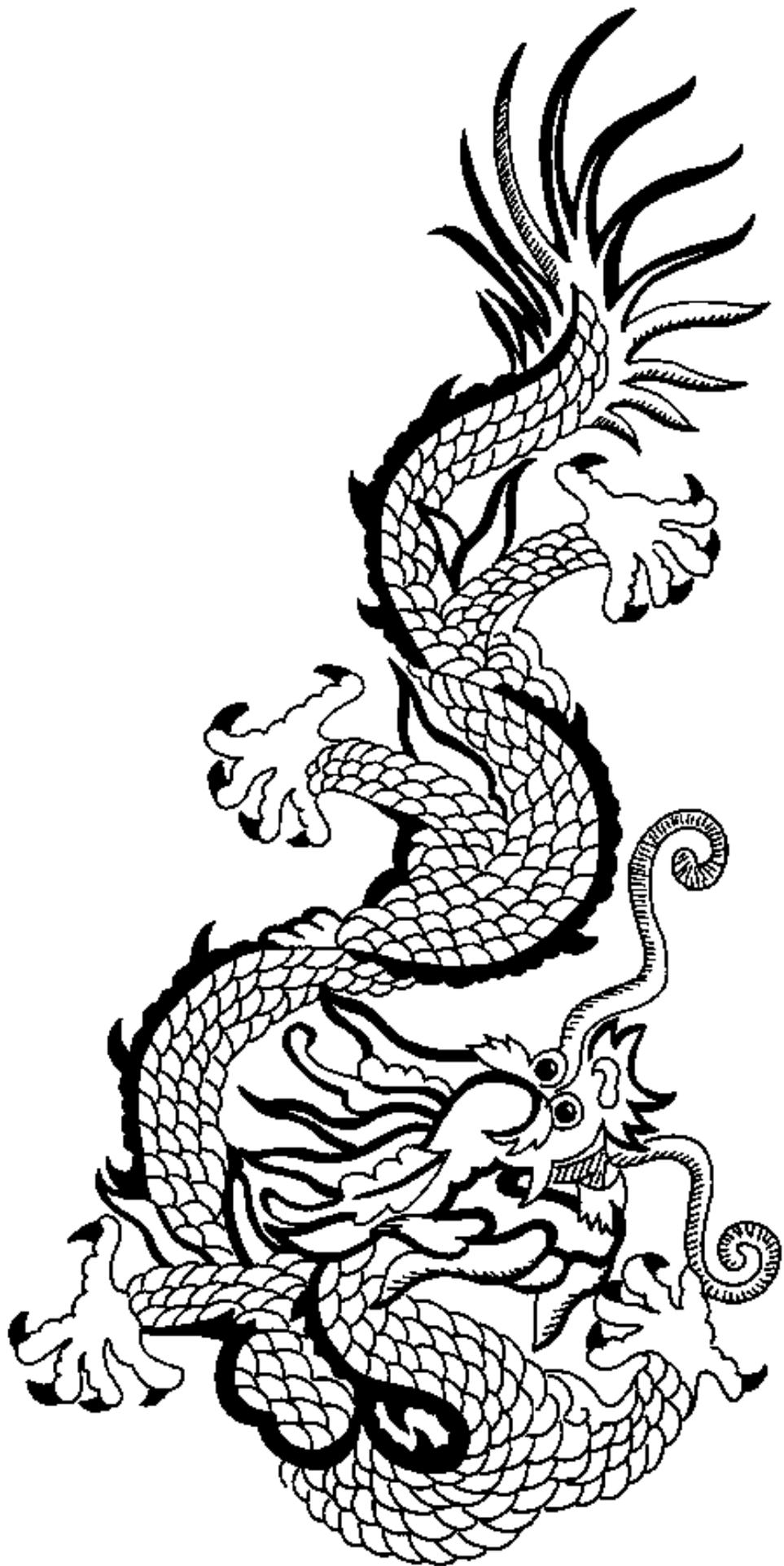
## Can you solve these lantern riddles?

1. What's full of holes but still holds water?
2. What building has the most stories?
3. What does everybody do at the same time?
4. Why is a river rich?
5. What has one eye, which is always open, but cannot see?
6. When is your mind like rumped bed?
7. What kind of fish are the richest?

(Answers: 1- a sponge, 2- a library, 3- ,4- because it was two banks, 5- a needle, 6- when it's not made up, 7 – goldfish)







ACTIVITES:

Websites about:

**For local library hours and activities**



Clinton

563- 242-8441

<http://www.clinton.lib.ia.us/library-information>

Camanche

563-259-1106

[www.camanche.lib.ia.us/](http://www.camanche.lib.ia.us/)

DeWitt

563-659-5523

<http://www.dewitt.lib.ia.us/>

Maquoketa

563-652-3874

[www.maquoketa.lib.ia.us](http://www.maquoketa.lib.ia.us)