

<b>CAMBODIAN LUNAR CALENDAR</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
Full moon of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> month	February 8	Meak Bochea 'bɔ̃Nɔ̃mɔ̃xɔ̃Cɔ̃'	1. We celebrate this day to mark the day that Buddha found enlightenment and entered Nirvana.
Ancient astrology determined when we celebrate the New Year (It usually take place between April 13 to April 15 of the Solar calendar)	April 13 – April 15	New Year 'bɔ̃Nɔ̃ɔ̃ qɔ̃m'	1. The first day of New Year is called Moha Sangkran, and it can be described simply as the inauguration of the New Angels who come to take care the world for a one-year term. People need to clean and decorate the houses by preparing fruits, drinks, and flowers for the New Year inauguration. This preparation is to welcome the New Angels of the new year. Elderly people like to meditate or chant the Dharma at that time because they believe that any angel who comes to their houses at that time will stay with them and take good care of their family for the whole year. 2. We offer food, fruits and clothing to the monks who in-turn pray for our ancestor and deceased relatives. We also offer gifts to our parents to ask for their forgiveness.
Full moon of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Month	May 6 – May 7	Pisak Bochea 'bɔ̃Nɔ̃Bɔ̃sɔ̃xɔ̃Cɔ̃'	This is the celebration of the birth of Buddha, his enlightenment, and the date that Buddha entered Nirvana.
1 <sup>st</sup> day after full moon of the 10 <sup>th</sup> month to the last day of the moon (the end of the 10 <sup>th</sup> month)	Aug. 3 – Aug. 17 (15 days)	Bon Pchum Ben 'bɔ̃Nɔ̃pɔ̃mɔ̃Bɔ̃n'	1. This celebration is very important for all Cambodian families. During this celebration Hell opens its gate for the 15 days to allow the souls that have done bad karma in the past life to come out to this world to visit their relatives and receive the offerings through the monks' chanting of the Dharma. 2. We pray to transfer the merits for our ancestors and deceased relatives. 3. We ask the cattle for their forgiveness after year long of labor by feeding them good food. 4. We offer new clothing and gifts to our parents who are alive to ask for their forgiveness for all the things that we said or done wrong onto them intentionally or not.
1 <sup>st</sup> day after full moon of the 11 <sup>th</sup> month to the full moon of the 12 <sup>th</sup> month	Oct. 2 – Oct. 31 (29 days)	Kakten 'bɔ̃Nɔ̃kɔ̃zɔ̃n'	1. We offer clothing to the monks. 2. When we participate in this ceremony, we gain merits (good karma) that we can take with us to our next life. In Buddhism, merits that you have gained determine whether you will be born in the Human realm, Heaven or enter Nirvana. The amount of merits can also determine the quality life as humans.

Compiled by Paularita Seng, Harborview Medical Center/University of Washington, 2001

\*\* These are annual celebrations.