

The Asian Reporter

Pacific Northwest News □ Volume 22 Number 2 □ January 16, 2012 □ www.asianreporter.com

Welcome the Year of the Dragon!



ENTER THE DRAGON. Workers install a dragon-shaped lantern on a wall for the Lunar New Year — the Year of the Dragon — in Nanjing, in eastern China's Jiangsu province. The Year of the Dragon begins January 23, 2012 and ends February 9, 2013. The Asian Reporter's special section in celebration of the Lunar New Year begins on page 13. (AP Photo, File)

Portland State University listed as one of top ESL colleges in the U.S.

Portland State University (PSU) has tied with the State University of New York's Buffalo campus for the top spot in a *U.S. News & World Report* ranking of colleges with the highest student participation in English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) programs. The list, published last month, shows that 10 percent of PSU's 2010 graduates participated in ESL programs.

More than 1,800 international students from 98 countries are enrolled at PSU. The number of international students has increased nearly 50 percent in the past five years due to heavy recruitment abroad and a comprehensive strategy to make the university more international, said Patricia Wetzel, PSU's interim vice provost for international affairs.

International students at PSU can be

conditionally admitted without taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), which means they have to complete coursework at the university before officially enrolling.

"For those who need to become proficient in English, Portland State's Intensive English Language Program offers open training to students, spouses, and community members," the report said.

China, India, Japan, Vietnam, and Saudi Arabia are the top five countries of origin among PSU's international students. About 500 students will be enrolled in Intensive English Language during the 2012 winter term, according to Judy Reed, director of PSU's Applied Linguistics program.

To learn more, visit www.pdx.edu/insidepsu/psu-goes-global.

Nikkei Endowment receives post-war photo collection and artifacts

A collection of photographs and artifacts from the post-World-War-II era has been donated to the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center (ONLC) from the family of Frank C. Hirahara. While internees did return and resettle in Portland when released from camps including Minidoka after World War II, it has been difficult to find remnants of this time in history.

The Oregon Nikkei Endowment is planning and organizing an exhibit addressing the post-war period that asks questions such as how did Japanese Americans find physical and social community post-war and what did it mean to be Japanese American during this time?

A recent donation from Patti Hirahara of Anaheim, California of her family's materials includes a photo collection, artifacts, and a baseball uniform her

father Frank wore when he played with the Oregon Nissei Vets team from 1948 to 1954.

Frank Hirahara was active in the Portland community after he graduated from Washington State University in 1948 and started working for the Bonneville Power Administration in Portland. Although he had a full-time job, he loved to take pictures in his spare time and became an active member of the Portland Photographic Society and the Oregon Camera Club. He won a top prize at an Oregon Camera Club Fall Quarterly Salon in 1951 when he was just 24 years old and his work was also displayed at the Maryhill Museum of Fine Arts that same year.

Being involved in community activities allowed Frank to photograph local Japa-

Continued on page 8

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Happy Lunar New Year!

Enter the Dragon

Asian populations will soon welcome the Year of the Dragon, which begins January 23, 2012. The Dragon holds court through February 9, 2013, when the Snake slithers in. The Lunar New Year is celebrated not only in Asian nations such as Vietnam, China, Korea, India, Nepal, Thailand, and Cambodia, but also by Asian populations throughout the world, including here in the Pacific Northwest.

As with countless cultural celebrations, the Lunar New Year observation dates back to an ancient legend of a truly amazing race. China's Jade Emperor, tasked with establishing a calendar order, challenged the 12 revered animals that dominated his kingdom to race one another. The calendar, he said, would be organized based on the results.

According to the legend, the Dragon was the fifth animal to complete the race. The first animal to finish was the Rat, who double-crossed the Tiger by pushing him into a river — the final leg of the contest — as they crossed atop the Ox's back. The Dragon came in behind the Rat, the Ox, the Tiger, and the Rabbit, but ahead of the Snake.

This year — 2012 — we honor the fiery and noble Dragon.

Because it is celebrated by many cultures with many different languages and traditions, the Lunar New Year is known by many names. But whether it's referred to by Cambodians as *Chaul*

Chnam Thmey, the Thai variation of *Songkran*, the Korean name *Sol*, or the Vietnamese title of *Tet Nguyen Dan*, each culture is united in the practice of celebrating the prosperity and potential of a New Year. In fact, the holiday is so beloved in China, which celebrates *Chun Jie* (the Spring Festival), that it continues for 15 days after — a time when families and friends come together to wish one another happiness and pay respects to their ancestors.

The Chinese lunar calendar is considered by many to be the oldest calendar system in the world, dating back as far as 2637 B.C.E. Each year represents one of 12 zodiac animals: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig.

Different cultures have different traditions, and in the case of the lunar calendar, the animals that populate the yearly cycles sometime differ. For example, in the Vietnamese tradition, the Rabbit is referred to as the Cat, the Sheep as Ram, and the Rooster as Cock. In the Tibetan cycle, the Rat is referred to as the Mouse, the Rabbit as Hare, and the Rooster as the Bird.

Every 12 years, each animal recurs, but in a different incarnation based on one of five elements. This year, for example, is the Year of the Water Dragon, which was last celebrated 60 years ago in 1952. After

Continued on page 23



DRAGON DAYS. A woman taking photos at a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia is dwarfed by a giant decoration of a dragon for the upcoming Lunar New Year, this year celebrating the Year of the Dragon, which begins January 23, 2012. People born between January 23, 2012 and February 9, 2013 are Water Dragons. (AP Photo/Lai Seng Sin)

The Year of the Dragon

The Dragon has deep roots in Asian culture, particularly in China, where dragon iconography and lore can be found throughout the ages in art, folklore, stories, history, and other facets of the culture. Those born under the Dragon sign are generally considered to be extremely principled, highly intelligent people who are full of energy and courage, but can also possess arrogance and a tendency to be ruthless despite their inherent generosity. They are also blessed with lucky streaks that help guide them through rough patches.

Dragon facts

Year of the Dragon: January 23, 2012 to February 9, 2013

Chinese Calendar Year: 4710

Dragon Years: 1904, 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024

Characteristics: Those born in the Year of the Dragon are known for having an innovative mindset, a self-assured mentality, bravery, and a drive for success. They also tend to look at things with a bit of scrutiny due to their perfectionism, which can come off as arrogance or irritability. Much of this stems from their seemingly endless luck in professional and social endeavors as well as from skill in competitive sports. They are free-spirited and enjoy individuality, and their extroverted nature tends to make them a commanding personality that draws the admiration of those around them, a trait compounded by their generosity and intuitiveness.

Best careers: Dragon people make excellent architects, doctors, inventors, military officers, entertainers, and journalists. They can even shoot for the moon — Dragons make great astronauts.

Compatible signs: Monkey, Rat

Corresponding western sign: Aries

Lucky numbers: 3, 4, 5, 6, 15, 21, 34, 35, 36 & 45

Dragons born this year: Dragons born between January 23, 2012 and February 9, 2013 are Water Dragons. The Water element makes for Dragons whose fiery personalities are tempered by a calmness uncharacteristic of their more outspoken and energetic brethren. Rather than charge directly into a situation, they step back and weigh options and are more willing to compromise with others. However, they also tend to let excessive optimism cloud their judgement, which can lead them to poor decisions.

Born in the Year of the Dragon: Bruce Lee (martial arts movie legend), Gao Xingjian (Nobel Prize-winning Chinese novelist), Matsumoto Hideto (late musician with the X Japan rock group), John Lennon (founding member, The Beatles), Ringo Starr (drummer, The Beatles), Martin Luther King, Jr. (civil rights pioneer), Woodrow Wilson (28th U.S. president), Pelé (Brazilian soccer legend), Sigmund Freud (founder of psychoanalysis), Sandra Bullock (Oscar-winning actress).

What sign are you?

Find the year you were born. Those born in January or February should consult page 22.

1900, 1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008 — Rat
 1901, 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009 — Ox
 1902, 1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010 — Tiger
 1903, 1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011 — Rabbit
 1904, 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012 — Dragon
 1905, 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013 — Snake
 1906, 1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014 — Horse
 1907, 1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015 — Sheep
 1908, 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016 — Monkey
 1909, 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017 — Rooster
 1910, 1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018 — Dog
 1911, 1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019 — Pig

• • •

The Gregorian and Chinese lunar calendars

Animal	Gregorian	Chinese
Dragon	January 23, 2012	Year 4710
Snake	February 10, 2013	Year 4711
Horse	January 31, 2014	Year 4712
Sheep	February 19, 2015	Year 4713
Monkey	February 8, 2016	Year 4714
Rooster	January 28, 2017	Year 4715
Dog	February 16, 2018	Year 4716
Pig	February 5, 2019	Year 4717
Rat	January 25, 2020	Year 4718
Ox	February 12, 2021	Year 4719
Tiger	February 1, 2022	Year 4720
Rabbit	January 22, 2023	Year 4721

Why should we celebrate the New Year?

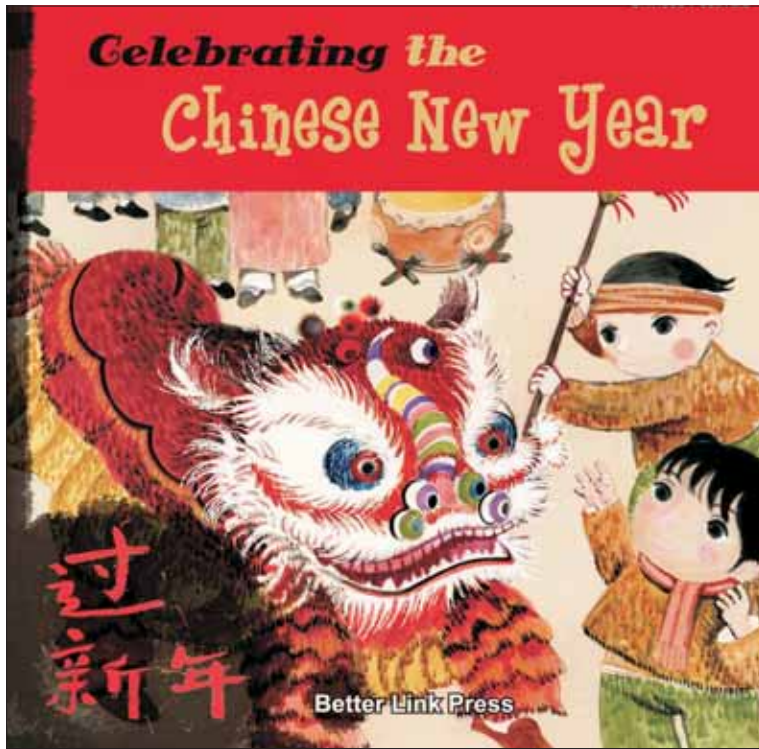
Celebrating the Chinese New Year

By Sanmu Tang
Better Link Press, 2007
Paperback, 32 pages, \$4.95

By Josephine Bridges
The Asian Reporter

Little Mei is happy the New Year is approaching, but she is not content to celebrate a holiday she doesn't know the reason for, so she asks. And asks. And asks. *Celebrating the Chinese New Year* is the story of a little girl's inquisitiveness and persistence, and those of us who are acquainted with little people unaccustomed to settling for the first answer they get to an important question will see our young loved ones in wonderful Little Mei.

Red packets filled with money, new clothes, *jiaozi* (dumplings), and firecrackers are all reasons Little Mei's brother, sister, mother, and father give for the celebration, but the girl remains unconvinced. Finally, Little Mei's grandmother encourages her to ask her grandpa, who tells her a story that begins like this: "Long, long ago, there lived a monster



called Xi, who would come to the human world to cause havoc every 365 days."

As she sits on her grandpa's lap and listens to the heroic feats of Nian, who made the monster so uncomfortable that he ran away and was never seen again, Little Mei acts the role of hero, and in the process discovers an answer to her question about why they

celebrate the New Year that satisfies her curiosity, and may well satisfy yours. The color red and firecrackers both play important roles in the banishing of the monster, as does a sticky cake that today bears Nian's name.

The tale of a simple question with a complex answer, young Mei's story would make a perfect

gift for the little person in your life who never stops asking, "Why?" Illustrations rich in detail accompany the text, which is comfortingly repetitive for the beginning reader. Look for masks, musical instruments, decorations, food, and fireworks, as well as a monster who starts out a little scary, but ends up seriously scared.

As *Celebrating the Chinese New Year* draws to a close, Little Mei is shown running with her arms spread wide to her grandpa, who leans down to embrace his grandchild as he tells her why the first and last days of the year have the names they do. Little Mei now knows why we celebrate the New Year. You can, too.



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The staff at *The Asian Reporter* wish you and your family a safe and happy Lunar New Year!



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Addressed by Marc Boldt
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Celebrate the Year of the Dragon! January 23, 2012 through February 9, 2013



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Enjoy a prosperous New Year!

Year of the Dragon

Jan. 23rd, 2012 | Chinese Lunar New Year 4710

Those born in the Year of the Dragon enjoy challenges and are passionate in everything they do. Dragons are full of strength and vitality and most have colorful personalities. They enjoy helping others, but do not like to ask for help themselves. Dragons prefer to be alone, which can sometimes be mistaken for arrogance. Overall, Dragons tend to be egotistical, whimsical, demanding and quick-tempered individuals who will strongly support friends and loved ones.

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CLUB PRICE

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Selected varieties.



3.99
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8-oz.
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Classic Sweet and Sour Pork

- Ingredients** (yields 4 servings)
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
 - 1 tablespoon Kikkoman Soy Sauce
 - 1 pound boneless pork shoulder, cut into 1-inch cubes
 - 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
 - 2 carrots, thinly sliced
 - 1 onion, chunked
 - 1 green bell pepper, chunked
 - 1 cup Kikkoman Sweet & Sour Sauce
 - 1 can (8 oz.) pineapple chunks, drained

Directions

1. Blend cornstarch and soy sauce in small bowl; stir in pork until well coated.
2. Brown pork in hot oil in Dutch oven or large skillet over medium-high heat.
3. Stir in 1/4 cup water. Cover and simmer 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Stir carrots, onion, bell pepper and sweet & sour sauce into pork mixture. Simmer, covered, 10 minutes longer, stirring frequently.
5. Add pineapple chunks; cook and stir only until pineapple is heated through.



Sweet and Savory Chicken Wings with Hoisin Sauce

- Ingredients** (yields 6 servings)
- 3 lbs chicken wings, cut into sections
 - 4 oz Lee Kum Kee Hoisin Sauce

Directions

1. Marinate chicken wings in Lee Kum Kee Hoisin Sauce for 2 hours (or overnight in the refrigerator). Bake at 350° F for 30 minutes or until fully cooked.



Prices in this ad are effective 6 AM Wednesday, January 18 thru Tuesday, January 31, 2012 in all Safeway stores in Oregon (except Milton-Freewater) and S.W. Washington stores serving Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania and Klickitat Counties. Items offered for sale are not available to other dealers or wholesalers. Sales of products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine limited by law. Quantity rights reserved. SOME ADVERTISING ITEMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL STORES. Some advertised prices may be even lower in some stores. On Buy One, Get One Free ("BOGO") offers, customer must purchase the first item to receive the second item free. BOGO offers are not 1/2 price sales. If only a single item purchased, the regular price applies. Manufacturers' coupons may be used on purchased items only — not on free items. Limit one coupon per purchased item. Customer will be responsible for tax and deposits as required by law on the purchased and free items. No liquor sales in excess of 52 gallons. No liquor sales for resale. Liquor sales at licensed Safeway stores only. © 2012 Safeway Inc. Availability of items may vary by store. Online and In-store prices, discounts and offers may differ.

Year of the Dragon forecasts

By Madame Mingmei
Special to The Asian Reporter

Consult the chart on page 22 to find your animal sign and element, then look below to discover your prospects for the coming year.

The Rat

The good times just keep coming for the Rat. Following a splendid Year of the Rabbit, fortune continues to smile upon the ambitious, thrifty rodent. It is a year to innovate and pursue new endeavors, but with all the new opportunities, don't forget to spend time with those you hold dear. In the Year of the Water Dragon, it's



never been a better time to go with the flow.

■ **Metal Rat:** Remember that not all are as fortunate as you. Share your happiness with those around you. The result could go well beyond brightening somebody's day and come back to help you when your luck runs dry.

■ **Water Rat:** Diplomacy and kindness mark your

nature and reflect the way you approach all facets of your life. Others see this, and this year will be filled with romance, either with the emergence of a new flame or the strengthening of existing relationships.

■ **Wood Rat:** This is your year, Wood Rat. Love, work, finances, and fun are all strengthened beyond your imagination. Take time to enjoy all these things, but don't deplete your resources, as the temptation to betray your thrifty nature could have severe consequences in the future.

■ **Fire Rat:** Your luck still runs high, but you will face some challenges this year that you don't expect, many of which arise from your difficulty with keeping secrets. Hold your tongue when playing the confidante.

■ **Earth Rat:** Your comfort with your professional life is blinding you to opportunities within your grasp this year, opportunities that you've all but ignored. But luck is on your side. Leave your comfort zone and you will find a well-lit path.

The Ox

Your loyalty and diligence will see your relationships strengthen across the board, which will come in handy during a year that appears to be loaded with challenges both economic and professional. Lean on your loved ones as they have learned to lean on you and your troubles will

pass you by.

■ **Metal Ox:** Your stubbornness is your Achilles heel. Your troubles at work stem from your refusal to seek help from others. Working as part of a team and listening to suggestions from others will help you break barriers.



■ **Water Ox:** Your practicality and realism serve you well in life, but they also stymie your enjoyment of the little things. Buried down in your hardworking soul is a child wanting to get out and play.

■ **Wood Ox:** Following a year of worry, you have neglected the creative endeavors that define your personality. Pursuing the things that engage your artistic side will remind you of the joy you feel when creating.

■ **Fire Ox:** You will be tested this year, but much of the stress can be avoided if you learn the virtuous art of patience, which is not your strong point. Remember that those around you are not necessarily of the same mind. Focus on the strengths of others rather than weaknesses and stress will dissolve.

Continued on page 20

16th Annual New Year's Celebration
- MOCHITSUKI -
Sunday - January 29 - 11 am to 4 pm
Enjoy the thrill of Taiko drumming, tradition of mochi-pounding, delight of sake tasting, and many other memorable and meaningful activities to usher in the Year of the Dragon in Japanese style.
Tickets are available online at oregonnikkei.org or call (503) 224-1458. More information at mochipdx.org.
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CHINESE NEW YEAR



YEAR OF THE DRAGON
Sunday, January 22, 2012
Monday, January 23, 2012

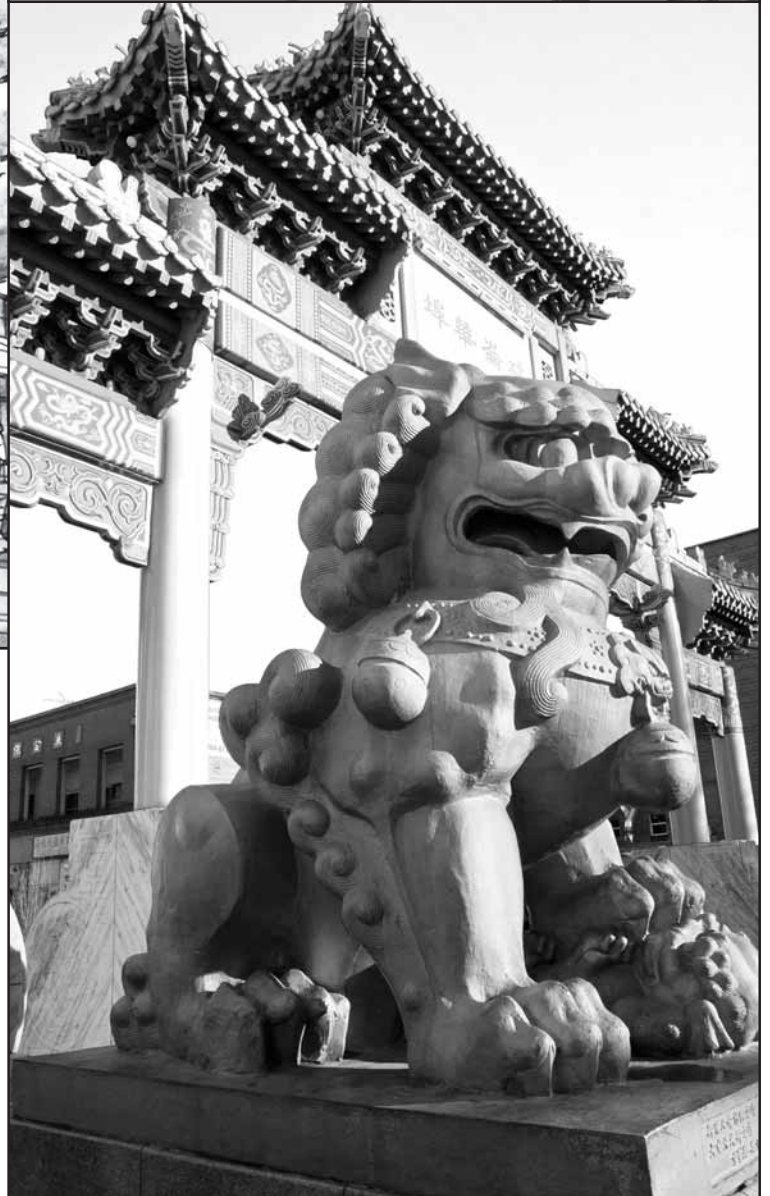
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The Portland Development Commission wishes you a happy, prosperous Lunar New Year



PDC is a proud neighbor and supporter of the Lan Su Chinese Garden (top, left), the iconic Hung Far Low sign, (top, right), the new campus of the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine, OCOM (bottom, left) and the historic Chinatown Gate (bottom, right).

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Helpful people

Long-Long's New Year

By Catherine Gower

Illustrations by He Zhihong

Tuttle Publishing, 2005

Lunar New Year events

Many community groups and organizations are holding events in celebration of the Lunar New Year. Following are some events held in Oregon and Washington.

Red Fans for Lunar New Year

Jan 19 & 28; Jan 19, 3:30-4:30pm, Belmont Library (1038 SE 39th Ave, Portland); Jan 28, 4:30-5:30pm, Woodstock Library (6008 SE 49th Ave, Portland). Families are invited to ring in the Year of the Dragon by decorating an accordion-folded red fan with Chinese symbols for good luck and prosperity at Red Fans for Lunar New Year. See story by Julie Stegeman ("Lunar New Year craft event attracts artists of all ages," *AR*, January 20, 2009) at <www.asianreporter.com>. For info, call (503) 988-5382 (Belmont) or (503) 988-5399 (Woodstock). To register (required for Woodstock), call (503) 988-5234 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Wing Luke New Year celebration

Jan 21, 10am-8pm, Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). Celebrate the Year of the Dragon at the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience. The event includes access to the "New Years All Year Round" exhibit (10am-8pm), a lion dance complete with drums and firecrackers (11am), a *washi* paper craft activity with artist Yuki Chikamura (1-3pm), *Oshogatsu* (a Japanese tea ceremony, 4:30pm), and more. For info, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

Lunar New Year at Tigard Public Library

Jan 21, 1:30-3pm, Tigard Public Library, Puett Room (13500 SW Hall Blvd, Tigard, Ore.). Celebrate the Year of the Dragon with traditions from China and Vietnam at the Tigard Public Library. The event, which is organized by the Tigard High School Asian Club and is open to youth age five and older, includes crafts, coloring, snacks, and more. For info, call (503) 684-6537 or visit <www.tigard-or.gov/library>.

Lunar New Year in Bellevue

Jan 21, 3:30-8:30pm, Westminster Chapel (13646 NE 24th St, Bellevue, Wash.). Ring in the Year of the Dragon at a Lunar New Year celebration featuring food, crafts for children, traditional music and dance, demonstrations, and more. For info, call (425)



MOCHITSUKI 2012. *Mochitsuki, the annual Japanese-American New Year celebration, takes place January 29 at southwest Portland's Scottish Rite Center. Pictured is a performer with Sahomi Tachibana Dancers unfurling a silk streamer. (Photo/Rich Iwasaki)*

460-3714, e-mail <LNY@westminster.org>, or visit <www.westminster.org>.

VCA Chinese New Year

Jan 21, 5:30-9:30pm, Mountain View High School (1500 SE Blairmont Dr, Vancouver, Wash.) Enjoy food, performances, red envelopes, and a raffle at the Vancouver Chinese Association's Chinese New Year celebration. For info, or to register (required), call (360) 834-1858 or visit <www.vca-usa.org>.

HKAW New Year Gala

Jan 21, 5:30-11:45pm, Sheraton Seattle Hotel & Towers, Grand Ballroom (1400 Sixth Ave, Seattle). Enjoy a lion dance,

dinner, an auction, and more at the Hong Kong Association of Washington's Chinese New Year Gala. For info, or to register, call (206) 588-5452 or visit <www.hkaw.org>.

API Pride Lunar New Year Banquet

Jan 21, 6-9pm, Eliot Center, Buchan Room (1226 SW Salmon St, Portland). Join members of API Pride for the organization's annual Lunar New Year Banquet. The event includes food, a raffle, performances, and more. API Pride supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people of Asian and Pacific Islander (API) descent in Oregon. For info, or to buy tickets, call (503) 877-9379, e-mail <api.pride@gmail.com>, or visit <www.api-pride.blogspot.com>.

Threshold: Enter the Dragon

Jan 21, 9pm, Refuge PDX (116 SE Yamhill St, Portland). Celebrate the Lunar New Year with a night of dancing and collaborative performances at *Threshold: Enter the Dragon*. Proceeds from the event, which is for persons age 21 and older, benefit the Portland Artists Clinic, a group of healthcare providers who provide medical services to artists who frequently lack access to affordable healthcare. For info, call (503) 453-4899 or visit <www.mythreshold.net>.

Tet Festival at Seattle Center

Jan 21-22, 10:40am-5:30pm (Sat), 11am-3:30pm (Sun), Seattle Center (305 Harrison St, Seattle). Attend *Tet Nguyen Dan* — the Vietnamese New Year — presented by Seattle Center Festal in partnership with Tet in Seattle. Tet Festival 2012 ushers in the Lunar New Year with dragon dances, a children's lantern festival, performances, food, games, a spelling bee, Lucky Money giveaways, health workshops, a human chess exhibition, activities for children, martial arts demonstrations, and more. For info, call (206) 684-7200, or visit <www.seattlecenter.com/festal> or <www.tetinseattle.org>.

"New Years All Year Round"

Jan 21-July 1 (Tue-Sun), 10am-5pm, Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience, Uwajimaya-Moriguchi Family KidPLACE (719 S King St, Seattle). View a fun, family-friendly exhibit that looks at Korean, Chinese, and Cambodian New Year traditions, colors, games, and cuisine. For info, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

Chinese New Year celebration

Jan 23-Feb 6 (daily), 10am-5pm, Lan Su Chinese Garden (NW Third Ave & NW Everett St, Portland). Ring in the Chinese Lunar New Year — the Year of the Dragon — with a series of activities, performances, and more at the Lan Su Chinese Garden. Festivities kick off January 23 at 10:00am with "Rolling in the Wealth," an event featuring lucky tangerines, a lion dance, and firecrackers. Other activities include lantern-making, storytelling, *tai chi*, demonstrations, lectures, and more. Lion dances

Continued on page 23



We stand together, richer for our differences.

We celebrate the wisdom of collaboration and the strength in diversity.

Year of the Dragon forecasts

Continued from page 16

■ **Earth Ox:** Creativity may not be your strong suit, Earth Ox, but that doesn't mean you don't enjoy expression. Take time to explore new varieties of art and entertainment. You just might find other people in the process that will light up your life.

The Tiger

For the Tiger, the Year of the Dragon is like an obstacle course populated with many hurdles, challenges, and opportunities — just the way the eager Tiger likes it. As usual, you will meet these hardships head on, but remember to take time to heal, lest your mind and body suffer in the wake of your ambition.

■ **Metal Tiger:** Your outspoken and ambitious nature typically serves you well, but can also draw the ire from those around you who also seek to lead. Tone back the aggression and listen to the ideas of others to create an atmosphere of cohesion.

■ **Water Tiger:** This year will present a barrage of challenges that demand your attention. You are advised to tap into the calmer side of your personality. With the right mindset, no challenge is too much to overcome.

■ **Wood Tiger:** Your charm will serve you well this year, especially in the romantic arena. Perhaps too well, as you may be forced to spurn some affections when people are drawn to you. Remember to be kind and leave bridges unburned.

■ **Fire Tiger:** A life led in pursuit of action and adventure is the life for you, but this year you need to spend some time thinking of the future rather than living for the present, lest you be smacked in the head by trouble that you should have seen coming over the horizon.

■ **Earth Tiger:** You are a person of sound judgement, but uncharacteristically bountiful options this year will lead to some difficult decisions personally and professionally. Remember to weigh benefits and consequences carefully.

The Rabbit

Embracing and honing passions equals success for the Rabbit in the Year of the Dragon. Doing what you love will burst open doors of opportunity. Remember, though, that there is more to life than work and play. Maintain good will with those around you and monitor your health while springing forward into new worlds of opportunity.

■ **Metal Rabbit:** Your confidence has always served you well, Metal Rabbit. But remember there is a fine line between confidence and arrogance. Be aware of how those around you perceive your attitude. They can help you get ahead, but can also present roadblocks.

■ **Water Rabbit:** Those around you, particularly friends or peers, don't fully realize your sensitivity, and therefore their words may strike you as harsh when malicious intent is absent. Remember to take criticism with a grain of salt and you will become stronger.

■ **Wood Rabbit:** Your creativity will help you excel professionally this year, bringing an increased workload and, with it, stress. Remember that the stress is your cross to bear. Watch your temper with those around you, lest you compound your headaches.

■ **Fire Rabbit:** You are the most passionate bunny in the hutch. In a year in which passion pays huge dividends, you're poised to excel at most of the endeavors you undertake. Just remember to relax from time to time and enjoy quiet moments.

■ **Earth Rabbit:** You will be forced to resolve an issue from your past, which might create some friction initially. However, for good or ill, the resolution will result in a weight off the shoulder and offer peace of mind.

The Dragon

This is your year, Dragon, and your ambition and drive



are soaring to astounding new heights. But that does not give you an all-out pass. Nothing will come particularly easy, but you are a fighter, and when you set your mind to a goal, there's no stopping you from achieving it.

Choose your battles wisely, lest the battlefield be populated with casualties in the forms of lost friends and missed opportunities.

■ **Metal Dragon:** Your determination and ambition is rivalled by few, so consider reaching higher than normal in terms of goals. This will create more challenges, but could also reap greater rewards.

■ **Water Dragon:** Your optimism can sometimes lead to an unrealistic worldview, particularly in new endeavors that could end up breaking you. Continue to reach, but if you remember that stumbling is a possibility, you will protect yourself from heartbreak.

■ **Wood Dragon:** Stability is your comfort, Wood Dragon, and some ripples may appear in your family life this year. Remember that change is not necessarily a bad thing: Greet it with optimism and your love will grow.

■ **Fire Dragon:** You are gregarious and outgoing, and as such, people are drawn to your warmth. But your competitive streak can cause some tension, particularly when another charmer usurps some of your attention. Share the limelight and new friendships will blossom.

■ **Earth Dragon:** Your trademark patience may be tested as several roadblocks to professional stability arise from all directions. Take a deep breath, consider your plan of attack, and strategize to swiftly win the fight.

The Snake

With the Year of the Dragon comes increased difficulty in all aspects of the Snake's life. However, trials and tribulations will only serve to strengthen the enduring Snake, and with each challenge, the enterprising serpent will find new opportunities. Wit and intelligence are the keys to success. For the Snake who can see diamonds in the rough, the year holds countless treasures.

■ **Metal Snake:** The pursuit of luxury that typically drives you will bear fewer fruits than usual, but another form of currency will shine through: the currency of love, which will beam forth from an unexpected source this year.

■ **Water Snake:** Your cunning will be perceived by an acquaintance as something sinister, which makes it all the more important for you to betray your own secretive nature and be more open with those around you. An open-book policy could save you from conflict.

■ **Wood Snake:** Others will try to get a rise out of you more frequently than usual this year, but stay true to your calm, wise nature. Your refusal to shed your thick skin will draw the admiration of others and lead to unexpected rewards.

■ **Fire Snake:** Colleagues who usually hang on your every word and seek your guidance will become more independent. Use the extra time and mental space to pursue a new activity or hobby rather than dwell on the pains of being a sheep-less shepherd.

■ **Earth Snake:** The completion of a long-term goal is within reach, but remember that the last leg of the race could prove to be the most difficult. Stay focused, shake off negativity, and keep reaching. By year's end, you'll be in need of a new goal.

The Horse

Horses will find opportunities abounding throughout the year: chances to achieve career goals, romantic reinvigoration, friendship, and realized dreams. The rewards, however, will likely satisfy the heart more than the bankroll. The feeling of achieving dreams while growing closer to those around you is priceless, however. Remember to be cautious, not hesitant, and tackle one goal at a time to achieve success.

Continued on page 21



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School districts must locate and identify individuals who have disabilities from birth to age 21. If you, or someone you know, has a child with a disability who may be in need of special education and related services, you can initiate a referral through your local schools. The following is a list of Multnomah County School Districts:

- Centennial School District: (503) 760-7990
- Corbett School District: (503) 695-3612
- David Douglas School District: (503) 261-8209
- Gresham-Barlow School District: (503) 618-2462
- Parkrose School District: (503) 408-2118
- Portland School District: (503) 916-3152
- Reynolds School District: (503) 661-7200
- Riverdale School District: (503) 636-8611
- Multnomah Early Childhood Program (Portland): (503) 262-4275
- Multnomah Early Childhood Program (East County): (503) 262-4100

Year of the Dragon forecasts

Continued from page 20

■ **Metal Horse:** You are headstrong and also more than a little stubborn. Your refusal to budge might lead



opportunities to pass directly by you or allow tribulation to collide directly into you. The willingness to compromise could present new opportunities.

■ **Water Horse:** You see beauty all around you, in things that

others perceive as normal. Share your vision with others. Not only will it open eyes to the world around you, it will also draw the admiration and romantic attention of another.

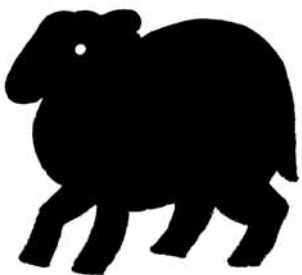
■ **Wood Horse:** An unexpected rival will try to use your cheery disposition as an inroad to take advantage of you. Keep your guard up, but also don't be afraid to let others in. Those who wish to do you harm will be their own demise.

■ **Fire Horse:** Adventure and excitement beckon the Fire Horse and now is a time to break into exciting new pastures. These journeys will be best shared with a loved one and will serve to tighten the bonds that tie you together.

■ **Earth Horse:** Your tendency to amble at your own pace could prove to be your undoing this year if you don't quicken your pace in an accelerating world. Fortune is coming at you with the speed of a freight train. Move fast or your ambitions could be derailed.

The Sheep

Sheep can look forward to a year characterized by one of



their most endearing qualities: peacefulness. Though this is a year of endless opportunity, Sheep are advised to be frugal. While there is a temptation to fill your life with new material goods, prosperity is not guaranteed to last

forever. Saving now can help ensure years of tranquility and comfort when times are not as prosperous as well as offer the ultimate peace: that of the mind.

■ **Metal Sheep:** Rather than being timid like your sheepish brethren, Metal Sheep, you flourish in herds. Combine your love of art with your love of socializing and you could find yourself surrounded by new friends this year.

■ **Water Sheep:** Your natural tendency to be trusting might be tested by a new personality with a less-than-pleasant agenda. Do not allow this to affect the confidence you have in those you hold close, but rather realize that perhaps your trust should be earned, not freely given.

■ **Wood Sheep:** Your kindness is a crutch to so many people in your life, but you seldom confide in others. At some point, you will need to seek out a confidante. Carefully choosing an ear will result in a deeper level of friendship for both of you.

■ **Fire Sheep:** Bravery can sometimes be considered a mask for poorly conceived actions. But your instinct is among your strongest traits. This year you will be faced with a tough choice. Weigh your options and follow your gut. Your choice will be the right one.

■ **Earth Sheep:** You spend considerable time with your head in the clouds, which will draw the ire of those around you who pick up your slack. Find a balance between daydreaming and productivity.

The Monkey

The Monkey and the Dragon are close to one another, and as such the year is looking positive for the rambunctious simian. Yet while Monkey personalities are marked by playfulness and excitement, the Year of the Dragon is looking to be less a playground than a span of tranquility. This will afford a chance to relax and enjoy some quiet self-discovery with requisite bouts of giddiness, play, excitement, and whimsy.

Continued on page 22

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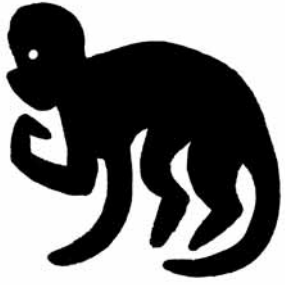
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Have a safe and prosperous Year of the Dragon!

Year of the Dragon forecasts

Continued from page 21

■ **Metal Monkey:** Your aggressive, sometimes abrasive spirit in work and play will throw you into conflict with those whose year is not as prosperous. Stay true to your spirit, though, and you will soon become an inspiration rather than an irritant.



■ **Water Monkey:** Your generosity of spirit means you play well with others. This year, new friends will enter your world, drawn to your playfulness and inclusive nature. The widening circle of friends could translate into an unexpected opportunity.

■ **Wood Monkey:** An unexpected turn of events will cause you to take the shoulder of a loved one to whom you don't typically bare your soul. This interaction will not only quell your sorrow, it will draw you closer than ever.

■ **Fire Monkey:** Moving like a force of nature rampaging through the lives of your friends and family, many have a tough time keeping up with you, including you yourself. Take a moment of introspection amid the chaos and you will find joy in things you usually race past.

■ **Earth Monkey:** The calm of the year mixed with your generally calm demeanor could leave you feeling deflated. Activity is the key to maintaining your playful nature without losing your spunk.

The Rooster

For the cocksure Rooster, the Dragon's arrival heralds a mixed bag. On the one hand, it presents countless ways to express yourself to the delight of those around you. On the other hand, life will come speeding at you like a bullet, with opportunities, challenges, romance, tragedy, and other



important aspects of being competing for your attention and stretching you thin. Stay strong, keep an open mind, and see each challenge as an opportunity to grow.

■ **Metal Rooster:** You can't be a Rooster without being cocky, but this year, confidence will be perceived as arrogant and could result in increased friction. Even if you're sure you're right (which you are), try letting others be right once in a while, too.

■ **Water Rooster:** Your clearheaded decision-making skills are an inspiration to those around you and will result in your mentoring a newcomer. Play the role of the good teacher, but reserve some of your secrets for your own advantage.

■ **Wood Rooster:** Even you, whose integrity and ethical principles are ironclad, feel temptation, and the Year of the Dragon will tempt you and your morals with

Continued on page 24

LUNAR CALENDAR

When were you born?

Look up your date of birth to find out what sign and element apply to you!

Jan. 31, 1900 to Feb. 18, 1901 — Metal Rat	Jan. 28, 1960 to Feb. 14, 1961 — Metal Rat
Feb. 19, 1901 to Feb. 07, 1902 — Metal Ox	Feb. 15, 1961 to Feb. 04, 1962 — Metal Ox
Feb. 08, 1902 to Jan. 28, 1903 — Water Tiger	Feb. 05, 1962 to Jan. 24, 1963 — Water Tiger
Jan. 29, 1903 to Feb. 15, 1904 — Water Rabbit	Jan. 25, 1963 to Feb. 12, 1964 — Water Rabbit
Feb. 16, 1904 to Feb. 03, 1905 — Wood Dragon	Feb. 13, 1964 to Feb. 01, 1965 — Wood Dragon
Feb. 04, 1905 to Jan. 24, 1906 — Wood Snake	Feb. 02, 1965 to Jan. 20, 1966 — Wood Snake
Jan. 25, 1906 to Feb. 12, 1907 — Fire Horse	Jan. 21, 1966 to Feb. 08, 1967 — Fire Horse
Feb. 13, 1907 to Feb. 01, 1908 — Fire Sheep	Feb. 09, 1967 to Jan. 29, 1968 — Fire Sheep
Feb. 02, 1908 to Jan. 21, 1909 — Earth Monkey	Jan. 30, 1968 to Feb. 16, 1969 — Earth Monkey
Jan. 22, 1909 to Feb. 09, 1910 — Earth Rooster	Feb. 17, 1969 to Feb. 05, 1970 — Earth Rooster
Feb. 10, 1910 to Jan. 29, 1911 — Metal Dog	Feb. 06, 1970 to Jan. 26, 1971 — Metal Dog
Jan. 30, 1911 to Feb. 17, 1912 — Metal Pig	Jan. 27, 1971 to Jan. 14, 1972 — Metal Pig
Feb. 18, 1912 to Feb. 05, 1913 — Water Rat	Jan. 15, 1972 to Feb. 02, 1973 — Water Rat
Feb. 06, 1913 to Jan. 25, 1914 — Water Ox	Feb. 03, 1973 to Jan. 22, 1974 — Water Ox
Jan. 26, 1914 to Feb. 13, 1915 — Wood Tiger	Jan. 23, 1974 to Feb. 10, 1975 — Wood Tiger
Feb. 14, 1915 to Feb. 02, 1916 — Wood Rabbit	Feb. 11, 1975 to Jan. 30, 1976 — Wood Rabbit
Feb. 03, 1916 to Jan. 22, 1917 — Fire Dragon	Jan. 31, 1976 to Feb. 17, 1977 — Fire Dragon
Jan. 23, 1917 to Feb. 10, 1918 — Fire Snake	Feb. 18, 1977 to Feb. 06, 1978 — Fire Snake
Feb. 11, 1918 to Jan. 31, 1919 — Earth Horse	Feb. 07, 1978 to Jan. 27, 1979 — Earth Horse
Feb. 01, 1919 to Feb. 19, 1920 — Earth Sheep	Jan. 28, 1979 to Feb. 15, 1980 — Earth Sheep
Feb. 20, 1920 to Feb. 07, 1921 — Metal Monkey	Feb. 16, 1980 to Feb. 04, 1981 — Metal Monkey
Feb. 08, 1921 to Jan. 27, 1922 — Metal Rooster	Feb. 05, 1981 to Jan. 24, 1982 — Metal Rooster
Jan. 28, 1922 to Feb. 15, 1923 — Water Dog	Jan. 25, 1982 to Feb. 12, 1983 — Water Dog
Feb. 16, 1923 to Feb. 04, 1924 — Water Pig	Feb. 13, 1983 to Feb. 01, 1984 — Water Pig
Feb. 05, 1924 to Jan. 24, 1925 — Wood Rat	Feb. 02, 1984 to Feb. 19, 1985 — Wood Rat
Jan. 25, 1925 to Feb. 12, 1926 — Wood Ox	Feb. 20, 1985 to Feb. 08, 1986 — Wood Ox
Feb. 13, 1926 to Feb. 01, 1927 — Fire Tiger	Feb. 09, 1986 to Jan. 28, 1987 — Fire Tiger
Feb. 02, 1927 to Jan. 22, 1928 — Fire Rabbit	Jan. 29, 1987 to Feb. 16, 1988 — Fire Rabbit
Jan. 23, 1928 to Feb. 09, 1929 — Earth Dragon	Feb. 17, 1988 to Feb. 05, 1989 — Earth Dragon
Feb. 10, 1929 to Jan. 29, 1930 — Earth Snake	Feb. 06, 1989 to Jan. 26, 1990 — Earth Snake
Jan. 30, 1930 to Feb. 16, 1931 — Metal Horse	Jan. 27, 1990 to Feb. 14, 1991 — Metal Horse
Feb. 17, 1931 to Feb. 05, 1932 — Metal Sheep	Feb. 15, 1991 to Feb. 03, 1992 — Metal Sheep
Feb. 06, 1932 to Jan. 25, 1933 — Water Monkey	Feb. 04, 1992 to Jan. 22, 1993 — Water Monkey
Jan. 26, 1933 to Feb. 13, 1934 — Water Rooster	Jan. 23, 1993 to Feb. 09, 1994 — Water Rooster
Feb. 14, 1934 to Feb. 03, 1935 — Wood Dog	Feb. 10, 1994 to Jan. 30, 1995 — Wood Dog
Feb. 04, 1935 to Jan. 23, 1936 — Wood Pig	Jan. 31, 1995 to Feb. 18, 1996 — Wood Pig
Jan. 24, 1936 to Feb. 10, 1937 — Fire Rat	Feb. 19, 1996 to Feb. 07, 1997 — Fire Rat
Feb. 11, 1937 to Jan. 30, 1938 — Fire Ox	Feb. 08, 1997 to Jan. 27, 1998 — Fire Ox
Jan. 31, 1938 to Feb. 18, 1939 — Earth Tiger	Jan. 28, 1998 to Feb. 05, 1999 — Earth Tiger
Feb. 19, 1939 to Feb. 07, 1940 — Earth Rabbit	Feb. 06, 1999 to Feb. 04, 2000 — Earth Rabbit
Feb. 08, 1940 to Jan. 26, 1941 — Metal Dragon	Feb. 05, 2000 to Jan. 23, 2001 — Metal Dragon
Jan. 27, 1941 to Feb. 14, 1942 — Metal Snake	Jan. 24, 2001 to Feb. 11, 2002 — Metal Snake
Feb. 15, 1942 to Feb. 04, 1943 — Water Horse	Feb. 12, 2002 to Jan. 31, 2003 — Water Horse
Feb. 05, 1943 to Jan. 24, 1944 — Water Sheep	Feb. 01, 2003 to Jan. 21, 2004 — Water Sheep
Jan. 25, 1944 to Feb. 12, 1945 — Wood Monkey	Jan. 22, 2004 to Feb. 08, 2005 — Wood Monkey
Feb. 13, 1945 to Feb. 01, 1946 — Wood Rooster	Feb. 09, 2005 to Jan. 28, 2006 — Wood Rooster
Feb. 02, 1946 to Jan. 21, 1947 — Fire Dog	Jan. 29, 2006 to Feb. 17, 2007 — Fire Dog
Jan. 22, 1947 to Feb. 09, 1948 — Fire Pig	Feb. 18, 2007 to Feb. 06, 2008 — Fire Pig
Feb. 10, 1948 to Jan. 28, 1949 — Earth Rat	Feb. 07, 2008 to Jan. 25, 2009 — Earth Rat
Jan. 29, 1949 to Feb. 16, 1950 — Earth Ox	Jan. 26, 2009 to Feb. 13, 2010 — Earth Ox
Feb. 17, 1950 to Feb. 05, 1951 — Metal Tiger	Feb. 14, 2010 to Feb. 02, 2011 — Metal Tiger
Feb. 06, 1951 to Jan. 26, 1952 — Metal Rabbit	Feb. 03, 2011 to Jan. 22, 2012 — Metal Rabbit
Jan. 27, 1952 to Feb. 13, 1953 — Water Dragon	Jan. 23, 2012 to Feb. 09, 2013 — Water Dragon
Feb. 14, 1953 to Feb. 02, 1954 — Water Snake	Feb. 10, 2013 to Jan. 30, 2014 — Water Snake
Feb. 03, 1954 to Jan. 23, 1955 — Wood Horse	Jan. 31, 2014 to Feb. 18, 2015 — Wood Horse
Jan. 24, 1955 to Feb. 11, 1956 — Wood Sheep	Feb. 19, 2015 to Feb. 07, 2016 — Wood Sheep
Feb. 12, 1956 to Jan. 30, 1957 — Fire Monkey	Feb. 08, 2016 to Jan. 27, 2017 — Fire Monkey
Jan. 31, 1957 to Feb. 17, 1958 — Fire Rooster	Jan. 28, 2017 to Feb. 15, 2018 — Fire Rooster
Feb. 18, 1958 to Feb. 07, 1959 — Earth Dog	Feb. 16, 2018 to Feb. 04, 2019 — Earth Dog
Feb. 08, 1959 to Jan. 27, 1960 — Earth Pig	Feb. 05, 2019 to Jan. 24, 2020 — Earth Pig

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YEAR OF THE WATER DRAGON. Water Dragons, born between January 23, 2012 and February 9, 2013, are typically calmer and more comfortable taking suggestions from others. This quality means these artistic dragons are often over-optimistic and their tendency to look on the brighter side can cloud their decisions. Pictured is a dragon dancing amid the smoke of firecrackers in celebration of Tet Nguyen Dan, the Vietnamese New Year. (AP Photo/The Sun Herald, John Fitzhugh, File)

Lunar New Year: Enter the Dragon

Continued from page 13

this year, the Water Dragon's flame will dim until it is reignited in 2072.

According to Chinese astrology, people born in the Year of the Dragon (1904, 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024) are known for their energy, grace, strength, and ability to draw the attention of those around them. Water Dragons, born between January 23, 2012 and February 9, 2013, are typically calmer and more comfortable taking suggestions from others. This quality also means these artistic dragons are often over-optimistic and their tendency to look on the brighter side can cloud their decisions.

New Year traditions

Different cultures ring in the New Year with unique celebrations. In Korea, celebrations are more subdued, while in Thailand, revellers get wet and wild with *Rohd Nam Songkran*, a slippery festival in which celebrants throw water over one another to bring rain in the coming year.

Worldwide celebrations also bring out many different flavors marking the arrival of another year. Korean celebrants slurp a rice-cake soup known as *duk-duk* while Vietnamese eat rice cakes without soup in the form of *banh trung*. The Chinese enjoy rice cakes as well, pairing the treats with dumplings.

The arrival of the New Year also indicates a spiritual event, a time for reflection at temples. In China, the Spring Festival marks the busiest travel time, with families travelling throughout the region — frequently piling onto trains that crisscross the landscape — to join their families.

Children are among the luckiest — and most spoiled — beneficiaries of the New Year, often receiving many treats from adults. In China and Vietnam, youngsters receive special red envelopes containing New Year's money (in China, the envelopes are called *hong bao*). Korean children bow to their parents and grandparents and, in return, receive freshly minted money (though not in red envelopes).

Of course, the old adage "out with the old, in with the new" is a universal theme of New Year celebrations the world over. Another widely practiced tradition involves cleansing homes of evil spirits by literally cleaning and sweeping dwellings of dirt. In addition, new clothing is often purchased in commemoration of the New Year.

The next Lunar New Year will bring the Year of the Snake, from February 10, 2013 to January 30, 2014.

Have a safe and prosperous Year of the Dragon!

Lunar New Year events

Continued from page 19

are performed at noon, 1pm, and 2pm each weekend (Jan 28-29 & Feb 4-5), along with dragon dances also held on weekends at 4pm. The celebration culminates with traditional lantern viewing February 5 & 6 from 6:30 to 8:30pm. For info, call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org>.

Lunar New Year at Midland Library

Jan 24, 5:30-7pm, Midland Library (805 SE 122nd Ave, Portland). Celebrate the Year of the Dragon with traditions from China and Vietnam at the Midland Library. The event includes a cultural performance, crafts, and food. For info, call (503) 988-5392 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Lunar New Year at Holgate Library

Jan 25, 6-7:30pm, Holgate Library (7905 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland). Celebrate the Year of the Dragon with traditions from China and Vietnam at the Holgate Library. For info, call (503) 988-5389 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Lunar New Year at Hing Hay Park

Jan 28, 11am-4pm, Hing Hay Park (423 Maynard Ave S, Seattle). Celebrate the Year of the Dragon at the Chinatown-International District Lunar New Year Celebration. The free event features lion and dragon dances, taiko drumming, calligraphy, games, a children's costume parade, martial arts demonstrations, food, and more. For info, call (206) 382-1197 or visit <www.cidbia.org>.

Lunar New Year at Gregory Heights

Jan 28, 1-3pm, Gregory Heights Library (7921 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland). Celebrate the Year of the Dragon with traditions from China and Vietnam at the Gregory Heights Library. The event includes music, games, food, and crafts. For info, call (503) 988-5386 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Mochitsuki 2012

Jan 29, 11am-4pm, Scottish Rite Center (1512 SW Morrison St, Portland). Attend Mochitsuki 2012, the 16th annual Japanese-American New Year celebration. The event includes a Community Fair, *mochi* pounding, Japanese food, hands-on activities, performances, *ikebana*, origami, games, and more. The event also includes stage shows (11:45am-3:30pm) featuring Portland Taiko, Mitsuki Dazai, the Sahomi Tachibana Dancers, the Fujinami Kai Dance Group, Takohachi taiko, Justin Takaha White, and others. For info, or to buy tickets, call (503) 224-1458 or visit <www.mochipdx.org>.

Loaves & Fishes Lunar New Year

Jan 30, 11am, Fook Lok - Hollywood Loaves & Fishes Center (1907 NE 45th Ave, Portland). Enjoy lunch, a cultural performance, and a lucky draw at a Lunar New Year celebration hosted by the Fook Lok - Hollywood Loaves & Fishes Center. For info, call Yen Bee at (503) 953-8215 or Mary at (503) 281-8109.

CCBA Lunar New Year celebration

Jan 30, 6pm, Wong's King Seafood Restaurant (8733 SE Division St, Portland). Join members of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) for a Lunar New Year celebration. The program features dinner, a lion dance, and a raffle. A portion of the ticket price benefits the CCBA scholarship program. For info, or to buy tickets, call (503) 957-1830 or visit <www.ccbaportland.org>.

Tet Festival 2012

Feb 4, 10am-6pm, Oregon Convention Center, Exhibit Hall D (777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland). Celebrate the Year of the Dragon at the Vietnamese Community of Oregon's Tet Festival. Tet, a shortened name for *Tet Nguyen Dan*, translates as the "first day" and marks the 23rd day of the 12th month of the lunar calendar. Tet is a time to celebrate heritage, honor ancestors, leave the past year's problems behind, and make a fresh start. The festival features activities including a lion dance, lucky money, a children's art contest, a free health fair, music, dance, an *ao dai* (long dress) pageant, and more. For info, call (971) 222-5698 or visit <www.congdongvietnamoregon.org>.

Year of the Dragon at SAAM

Feb 4, 11am-2pm, Seattle Asian Art Museum (1400 E Prospect St, in Volunteer Park, Seattle). Ring in the Year of the Dragon while connecting with the art of Asia at the Seattle Asian Art Museum's (SAAM) Free First Saturday. The family-friendly day includes a dragon printmaking workshop, live music, tours, and a screening of *Taro the Dragon Boy* (1:30pm), an anime film in which a son strives to free his mother from a spell that transformed her into a dragon. (Japan, 1983, Kirio Urayama & Peter Fernandez, 90 mins.) For info, call (206) 654-3100 or visit <www.seattleartmuseum.org>.

PSU Tet Show

Feb 5, 2:30pm, Portland State University, Smith Center Ballroom, Room 355 (1825 SW Broadway, Portland). Enjoy music, a lion dance, an *ao dai* (long dress) fashion show, and more at the PSU Tet Show, presented by the PSU Vietnamese Student Association. For info, call (503) 725-5855, e-mail <vsa.psu@gmail.com>, or visit <www.vsa.pdx.edu>. To buy tickets, call (503) 725-3307.



NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES. The 2012 Chinese New Year Cultural Fair takes place February 11 at the Oregon Convention Center in north-east Portland. Pictured are lion dancers entertaining the crowd.

C.A.C.A. Chinese New Year

Feb 6, 5:30pm, Wong's King Seafood Restaurant (8733 SE Division St, Portland). Welcome the Year of the Dragon at the Chinese American Citizens Alliance's (C.A.C.A.) annual fundraising dinner. Proceeds benefit scholarships and youth-related programs in the Asian community. For info, or to register, call (503) 221-8773 or visit <www.cacaportland.org>.

APACSA Year of the Dragon celebration

Feb 10, 6:30-8:30pm, Mt. Scott Community Center (5530 SE 72nd Ave, Portland). Ring in the Year of the Dragon at a celebration presented by the Asian Pacific American Community Support & Service Association (APACSA). The free event features games, a cultural performance, refreshments, and more. For info, call Victor at (503) 888-5027 or Jean at (503) 777-0550.

Chinese New Year Cultural Fair

Feb 11, 11am-5pm, Oregon Convention Center, Exhibit Hall A (777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland). Celebrate the Year of the Dragon at the 2012 Chinese New Year Cultural Fair. This year's event includes traditional and contemporary Chinese cultural activities, including lion dances, martial arts demonstrations, Chinese folk dance and music, and booths offering food, products, and services. For info, call (503) 380-8788 or visit <www.portlandchinesetimes.com>. To buy tickets, call (503) 777-2122 or visit <www.oregoncc.org>.

Sadih Celebration

Feb 18, 7-10pm, Portland State University, Smith Center, Multicultural Center (1825 SW Broadway, Portland). Attend the annual Sadih Celebration, a free event celebrating mid-winter and the 50 days left before *Nawruz*, the Persian New Year. The program includes readings, live music, dance performances, a film about Firdawsi's 11th-century masterwork *Shahnameh*, and more. Tea and cookies are provided and participants are encouraged to bring seasonal food or a snack to share. For info, call (503) 725-5214 or visit <www.persia.pdx.edu>.

Oregon Asian Celebration

Feb 18-19, Lane Events Center (796 W 13th Ave, Eugene, Ore.). Attend "The World is in Your Hands," the 2012 edition of the annual Oregon Asian Celebration. Visitors enjoy a bustling array of Asian culture through a colorful marketplace, entertainment, arts and crafts, hands-on workshops, cooking and martial arts demonstrations, youth activities, exhibits, Asian cuisine, and more. For info, or to obtain a complete schedule of activities, call (541) 554-9350 or visit <www.asiancelebration.org>.

PCC Year of the Dragon celebration

Feb 20, 11am-1:30pm, Legin Restaurant, Banquet Hall (8001 SE Division St, Portland). Attend Portland Community College's celebration of the Year of the Dragon. The free family-friendly event features a lion dance, activities for children, music, arts and crafts, Asian dances, demonstrations, discounted food, and more. For info, call Becky at (971) 409-8979.

Chua Nam Quang Chinese New Year

Feb 22, 7-10pm, Chua Nam Quang (3337 NE 148th Ave, Portland). Join Chua Nam Quang in welcoming the Year of the Dragon at a celebration featuring traditional dance, costumes, a lion dance, and *Gum Lung*, which features martial artists carrying the Golden Dragon throughout the temple. For info, call (503) 254-0875.

Northwest China Council New Year Gala

Feb 25, 5-9pm, Legin Restaurant, Banquet Hall (8001 SE Division St, Portland). Attend the Northwest China Council's 22nd annual Chinese New Year Gala ringing in the Year of the Dragon. The event features a dinner, live and silent auctions, entertainment, and more. For info, or to buy tickets, call (503) 973-5451 or visit <www.nwchina.org>.

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Year of the Dragon forecasts

Continued from page 22

sweet fruits. Trust yourself, for giving in means betrayal for many, yourself included.

■ **Fire Rooster:** A naysayer will have you questioning your skills as a leader and stir some doubt in those who follow you, but remain the person you've always been. You will be tested, and when you succeed, confidence will return.

■ **Earth Rooster:** Your keen ability and drive to seek out the truth may lead you to discover an unsettling aspect of a loved one's life. Keep in mind that private aspects should not be disclosed, even to the keeper of the closeted skeletons, lest you rupture your relationship.

The Dog

You will find success in many aspects this Dragon Year, success that will have you looking optimistically ahead to the future with eager eyes. Much of the success will be derived from creative methods employed in solving complex problems and will result in the formation of new

alliances — and a few potential enemies. Keep your eyes open, but enjoy yourself, for among the many great spoils of success is the feeling of accomplishment.

■ **Metal Dog:** Your idealistic nature will be an inspiration to those around you this year and could result in the emergence of a new opportunity from an admirer. Approach the opportunity with the same idealistic mentality that inspired it.

■ **Water Dog:** Your pleasant nature will be tested as a loved one's dour disposition takes a toll on your happiness. Temper your emotions and remember that your gentleness makes you a confidante. Take solace in the confidence and don't be infected by negativity.



■ **Wood Dog:** Your instinct in times of prosperity is to share the fortune. Do this to your heart's content this Dragon Year, but remember that life is filled with blind corners and saving for hard times can bring comfort amid even the roughest storm.

■ **Fire Dog:** Love is on the horizon for the Fire Dog, whose loveable personality will draw the admiration of an unexpected suitor. Or even two. Be wary of broken hearts while following the desires of your own.

■ **Earth Dog:** Your tendency to go with the crowd will backfire professionally when you follow the crowd down an ill-fated corridor. It is a blessing in disguise, as the fallout will present an opportunity to be a key player in a clutch situation.

The Pig

When stresses pile up around you, you will find that the best coping mechanism is your knack to remain calm in almost any situation. Others will see this as inspirational, creating a peaceful aura around you. This does not make you immune, however, as the year will be marked with

considerable challenge. But your refusal to cave to the demons of frustration will see that you get through the year relatively unscathed.

■ **Metal Pig:** With ambition driving your every step, you will be able to climb readily toward various social and professional goals. Be wary of stepping on others on your way up. If you fall, you could find that your safety net has vanished.

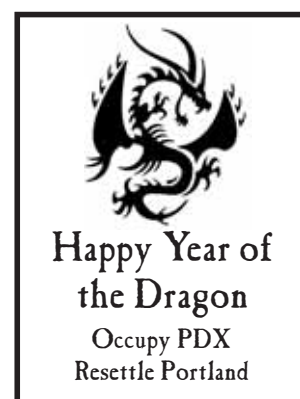
■ **Water Pig:** You observe things that many do not see. Resist the temptation to transform this skill into a habit of gossip, lest you find yourself observing your friendship circle from a great distance.

■ **Wood Pig:** You're always bringing people together. And with them come new people, new friends, and the possibility of a new love interest or a new best friend. Be sure, as you're playing host, to pay careful attention to the people you meet. You will be seeing more of them.

■ **Fire Pig:** Your daring and risky behavior could lead you into a sticky situation in the Year of the Dragon. You're advised not to avoid taking risks, but rather, to prepare for the consequences of your actions ... some of which could net surprisingly positive results.

■ **Earth Pig:** Patience is your weapon of choice this year. As life's trials come with an increasing fury, this virtue will serve to protect you from most anything. It will be stretched paper thin, though, so remember to keep calm and your steadiness will be its own reward.

Illustrations by Jonathan Hill.



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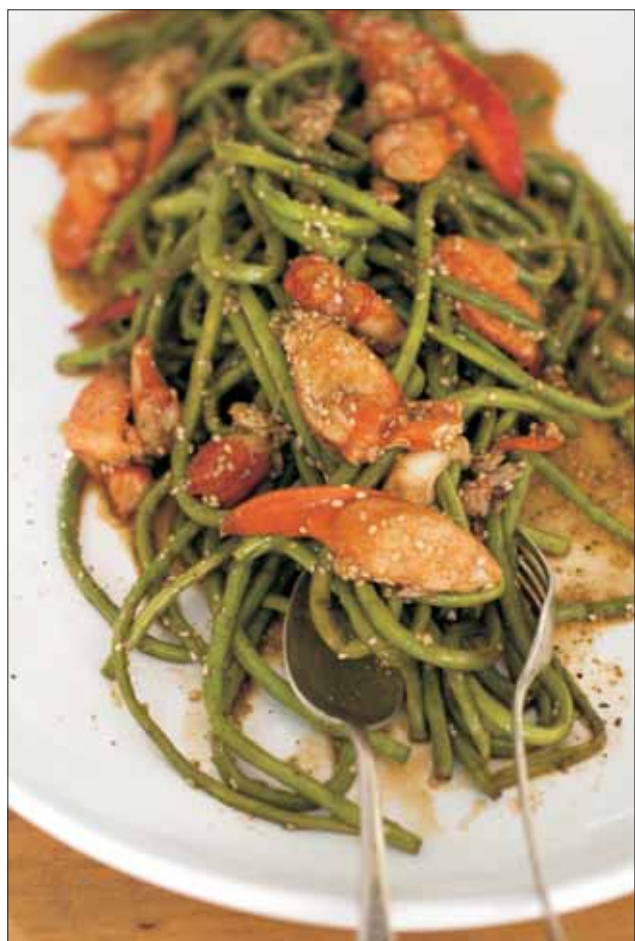
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LONG BEANS, LONG LIFE. Eating long beans to symbolize a long life is a hallmark of the Lunar New Year. Long beans can be found in most Asian markets and well-stocked grocers. They are often known by other names, such as asparagus beans, yard-long beans, and snake beans. (AP Photo/Matthew Mead)

Lunar New Year: A culinary wish for a long life

By Alison Ladman
For The Associated Press

Eating long beans to symbolize a long life is a hallmark of the Lunar New Year. These beans can be found in most Asian markets and well-stocked grocers. Long beans are often known by other names, such as asparagus beans, yard-long beans, and snake beans. But whatever you call them, they basically look like really long green beans.

Since this new year is the Year of the Dragon, more specifically the Water Dragon, we decided to serve our longevity dish with the dragon of the sea — lobster. If lobster isn't available (or in the budget), shrimp is another good choice. Buy the smallest, sweetest shrimp you can find.

Dragon Beans

Start to finish: 20 minutes
Servings: 8

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1/4 teaspoon Sichuan peppercorns, crushed
1/2 teaspoon Chinese five-spice powder
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 1/2 pounds Chinese long beans
1/2 cup water
1/4 cup oyster sauce
1 tablespoon soy sauce
1 tablespoon toasted sesame oil
Splash of Sriracha sauce
7 ounces cooked lobster meat, chopped
1 tablespoon toasted sesame seeds

In a wok or large, deep skillet over medium-high, heat the vegetable oil. Add the peppercorns, five-spice powder, and garlic. Heat, stirring constantly, for 30 seconds.

Add the beans and toss to coat. Add the water, oyster sauce, and soy sauce and cover. Allow the beans to steam for five minutes, or until just tender. Add the sesame oil, Sriracha, lobster meat, and sesame seeds. Toss together and cook until just heated through. Serve immediately.

Nutrition information per serving (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 430 calories (45 calories from fat, 13 percent of total calories); 5 g fat (1 g saturated, 0 g trans fat); 20 mg cholesterol; 55 g carbohydrate; 26 g protein; 10 g fiber; 530 mg sodium.



CELEBRATING THE SPRING FESTIVAL. Long-Long's New Year, by Catherine Gower, tells the story of Long-Long and his Grandpa's trip to town in preparation for the Spring Festival. Pictured are the many people and activities taking place at the town market, illustrated by He Zhihong.

Helpful people

Continued from page 18

accompanied by illustrations so rich in detail they deserve to be looked at slowly. Take a peek at Long-Long's shoes, for example, and see if you can spot who is playing in the back of the bicycle repair shop. How many fish can you count from beginning to end?

Following the story are two bonuses: a description of the first Chinese Spring

Festival and 10 Chinese words from the story, with ideograms and explanations. *Long-Long's New Year* is made even more sumptuous by these extra treats.

Catherine Gower and He Zhihong make wonderful partners. Their words and paintings seem made for each other and they make *Long-Long's New Year* a book you will visit again and again.

Chefs root for ginger's versatile properties

By Michelle Locke
For The Associated Press

Fresh, dried, candied, or pickled, the rhizome of the plant *Zingiber officinale* — ginger root to you and me — is a hot commodity at the moment.

Used quietly for years to add zip to everything from stir-fries and sushi to breads and cookies, ginger also happens to be a key ingredient for the noodles and dumplings traditionally eaten for the Lunar New Year, which begins January 23.

But at the moment, the knobby brown root is enjoying a bit of a zeitgeist that goes far beyond that celebration, showing up in desserts, upscale sodas, marinades for pricy meats, and fancy cocktails as the food world embraces the zingy root in anything but a gingerly fashion.

At the Lukshon restaurant in Los Angeles, chef-owner Sang Yoon laughingly describes himself as the guy who'll "eat my own weight in the pickled ginger" when sitting down to sushi. "I really enjoy that light burn on the palate. It almost acts as a palate cleanser. It's especially really pleasing for richer, oilier dishes like mackerel."

So at his restaurant, he has taken ginger well beyond the stir-fry, making a syrup from ginger and galangal (a more savory relative of ginger) for cocktails, juicing ginger for sauces and vinaigrettes, and hot pickling ginger for raw fish dishes.

Chef and Asian food authority Bruce Cost is such a fan he wrote the 1984 cookbook, *Ginger East to West*, which traced the history of ginger. He created



Bruce Cost Ginger Ale for his restaurants and now sells it in specialty and food service retailers across the country. Unfiltered, it's brewed in Brooklyn and made from fresh, whole ginger and cane sugar.

"It's probably the premier herb on the planet," he says, noting that ginger is an ancient food that has been embraced by diverse cultures.

And his brew is hardly alone. Grocer's shelves are suddenly crowded with fancy ginger ales sporting big, bold flavor, from Reed's Extra Ginger Brew to Maine Root Ginger Brew.

Diana Kuan, a New York-based writer

and cooking instructor who blogs about food at appetiteforchina.com, likes ginger in all its incarnations, including, of course, its traditional role along with garlic and scallions as the basis for stir-fry and other dishes.

Ginger also shows up in marinades to help tenderize meat and is a natural partner to crab, steamed fish, or in rich dishes, such as pork belly or dumplings. "It has a really clean and sharp flavor," says Kuan.

January 23 ushers in the Year of the Dragon, which is the only mythical creature in the 12 animals that make up the lunar zodiac and packs a bit more

GINGER JUBILEE. Used quietly for years to add zip to everything from stir-fries to sushi, ginger also happens to be a key ingredient for the noodles and dumplings traditionally eaten for the Lunar New Year, which begins January 23. (AP Photo/Matthew Mead)

drama than the mild-mannered Rabbit that ruled 2011.

Celebrations for the Chinese New Year begin with a big family feast on New Year's Eve and go on for 14 days ending with the Spring Lantern Festival.

Somewhere in there, you may need a cocktail, and this ginger lemon drop spritzer may fit the bill. Use the best ginger beer (fancy ginger ale) you can find. Fresh ginger, usually found with the grocer's Asian produce, should be firm and brown.

Ginger Lemon Drop Spritzer

Start to finish: 5 minutes
Servings: 1

- Ice
- 12-ounce bottle ginger beer
- 2 ounces Domaine de Canton (ginger liqueur)
- 1 ounce vodka
- 1 ounce lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger

Fill a highball glass with ice and pour in enough ginger beer to fill the glass two-thirds full.

In a cocktail shaker filled with ice, combine the ginger liqueur, vodka, lemon juice, and fresh ginger. Shake well, then strain into the glass.


Recipe by Alison Ladman.

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Celebrate the Year of the Dragon!
January 23, 2012 through
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Adopted kids mini-ambassadors come Lunar New Year

By Leanne Italie
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — With its fireworks, family reunions, and feasts, Lunar New Year is the longest and most important celebration for millions around the world.

For kids adopted from China, it holds special meaning. Lunar New Year makes them mini-ambassadors of a culture they know little about firsthand.

There's no official handbook on how far parents of internationally adopted children should go to celebrate their kids' birth cultures, but marking Lunar New Year — the Year of the Dragon begins January 23 — is usually one of those times for Asian children.

Their parents decorate front doors, throw dumpling-making parties, and stuff red envelopes with money. They clean their homes at the start of the 15-day celebration and hang red lanterns at the finish. Others keep it simple, sharing dim sum with friends at a restaurant or watching dragons dancing at parades in Chinese enclaves in their cities and towns.

The approach shifts and changes as their children grow. Some question whether they've done enough. Some do nothing at all.

"In south Louisiana, we're definitely ambassadors to the Chinese culture," said Jan Risher in Lafayette. She and her husband have a 10-year-old from China.

"When she was younger, I tried to do more of the outward Chinese cultural things, like decorations and cooking specific dumplings," Risher said. "But now that she's a little older, we mainly talk about China, its history and customs, and even its politics so that she can try and wrap her head around why she's here. She's a deep thinker."

Karen Burgers in northern New Jersey has two girls from China, five and 10 years old. They wear silk Chinese dresses and nibble vegetable lo mein, oranges, and fortune cookies she brings in to school for the new year.

"I've certainly failed to promote an authentic experience," Burgers said, "but the children get the gist, enjoy the festivity, and learn a little about the culture."

Rich Patterson and his wife are in Vancouver, British Columbia, home to a Chinese New Year parade that drew more than 50,000 people last year. The holiday, which reunites families around the world, does the same for the Pattersons.

They take in the parade and share dim sum with six other local families with whom they travelled to China to pick up their babies. Patterson's daughter is now four-and-a-half years old.

"This year, as a first, we fused Christmas decorations with Chinese New Year



decorations at our daughter's request," he said.

That meant a bright red and yellow dragon was nestled in Christmas garland front and center above their mantel.

The symbolism and superstitions surrounding the New Year are steeped in more than 5,000 years of Chinese history. A sampler of popular customs among parents looking to celebrate the birth cultures of their adopted kids include:

Lunar Zodiac

The dragon is the fifth and mightiest position in the lunar zodiac. For adopted kids, knowing one's birth animal is a casual connection, though the convoluted zodiac includes many other elements taken far more seriously in Asia.

"My kids love to hear about the Chinese Zodiac," said Heather Mayes Gleason in Takoma Park, Maryland. She has a five-year-old girl from China and a biological three-year-old son.

"With Chinese adoption, you know very little about your child's history, but you create their future. And I guess that is really what Chinese New Year is about," Gleason said.

Cleaning House

Before the New Year, sweep away any bad luck from the previous year. Hair is cut before the New Year and children wear new clothes to represent a new beginning.

For Myra Cocca in central Indiana, it's harder as her kids have grown older and busier to observe the traditions they loved when they were small. Her son, adopted from South Korea, is now 11. When he was little, she dressed him in a traditional garment called a *hanbok* for New Year. Today, "sometimes we're not home during the holiday, so we have not always marked the occasion," she said.

Red

The color is prominent in banners bearing holiday sayings in Chinese letters and decorative paper cutouts placed on doors and windows to scare away evil

spirits and bad luck, along with gold and orange to symbolize wealth and happiness in the year to come. Lucky red envelopes with crisp new bills are given to children. Some parents slip in candy instead. Risher has taken the color red further than most: "I've given everyone in my family red underwear!"

Dumplings

Crescent-shaped dumplings are eaten ahead of New Year's Day in China. In northern China, they are prepared for midnight nibbling the night before. The shape evokes coins in ancient China and eating the dumplings is a bid for good financial tidings.

How does Piper, Risher's 10-year-old, feel about dumplings and celebrating the New Year? "I come from China and it's important to me that our family still celebrates some of my culture, too," she said. "That's where I'm from."

Long Noodles

The longer the better to foster a long life. New Year's food traditions vary widely around the world, but main dishes of fish, duck, or chicken are prepared whole because using scissors and knives is considered unlucky. That means pasta is

ADOPTED AMBASSADORS. Shannon Patterson, right, and her husband Rich Patterson watch their four-and-a-half-year-old daughter Sophie Patterson as she plays with a Lion Dance toy at their home in Vancouver, British Columbia. The Lunar New Year, which reunites families around the world, does the same for the Pattersons. They take in Vancouver's New Year parade and share dim sum with six other local families with whom they travelled to China to pick up their babies. (AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Darryl Dyck)

uncut. It's become a rallying cry for some in the adoption community: "Long noodles, long life!"

Fireworks

Many ancient beliefs exist about why fireworks play a major role in the New Year. One is that loud noise scares away evil spirits and bad luck. That's why Burgers brings sheets of bubble wrap to her children's school. "The bubble wrap is loudly stomped upon as the children parade around the room wearing a dragon head costume."

Lantern Festival

The 15th day of the New Year is marked by parties where decorative red lanterns are hung indoors and out. Lantern-making projects are a cottage industry for adoptive families online.

Kate Eastman and her husband recently moved from Maine to Anacortes, Washington so their nine-year-old daughter from China could be closer to authentic Asian influences within an hour's travel to Vancouver or Seattle. Lantern-making is one of those things they love to do.

Cali's room is also full of Chinese dolls, books, and other reminders of her heritage.

"It's a learning process and we follow Cali's lead," Eastman said. "It's complex, for sure, and what makes it even more complex is how your child wants to observe each year and how much she wants to think of herself as Chinese or not. That's always evolving and changing."

For now, mom said, "at nine years old, she's proud to refer to herself as Chinese American, and we're equally proud of her for that."

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