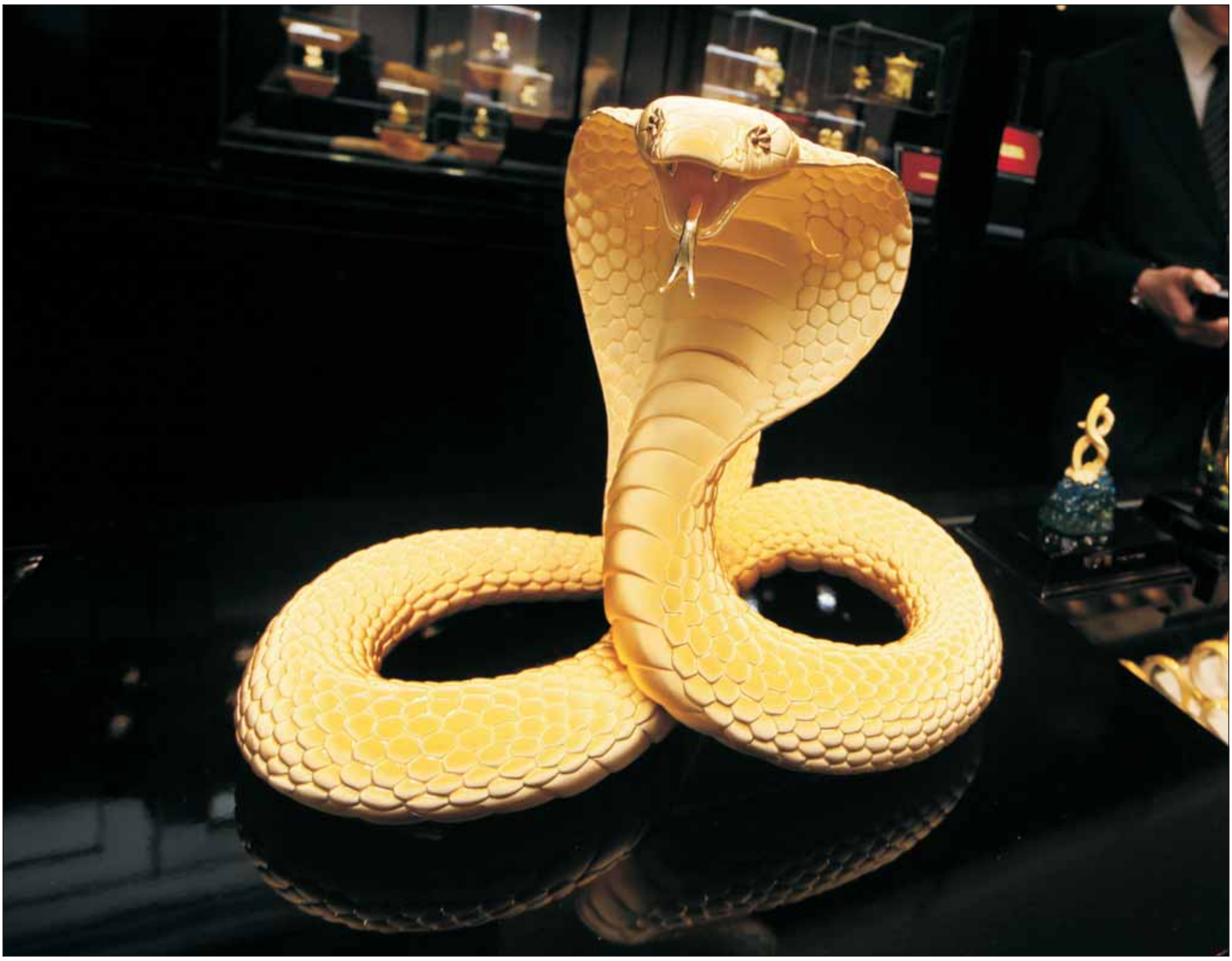
The Asian Reporter

Pacific Northwest News ❑ Volume 35 Number 1 ❑ January 6, 2025 ❑ www.asianreporter.com

Read your New Year horoscope! See page 14!

Welcome the Year of the Snake!



THE DIPLOMATIC SNAKE. *A gold snake is displayed in honor of the Year of the Snake at a jewelry store in Hong Kong in this January 18, 2013 file photo. This year's Lunar New Year celebration welcomes the Year of the Snake, which begins January 29, 2025 and ends February 16, 2026. Those born in the Year of the Snake are usually clever, compassionate, diplomatic, and fun-loving individuals.* The Asian Reporter*'s special section celebrating the Lunar New Year begins on page 8. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung, File)*

The Asian Reporter
922 N. Killingsworth St.
Portland, OR 97217 USA

The Asian Reporter is published on the first Monday each month.

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

Happy Lunar New Year!

THE SNAKE SLITHERS IN. *The Lunar New Year, which begins January 29, 2025, marks the Year of the Snake. People born under the sign of the Snake are usually clever, compassionate, and fun-loving. They are generally considered to be determined, gregarious, and honorable individuals who are well-mannered and reflective. They can also have a tendency to be intense and possessive, and can be calculating and cruel. The Year of the Snake ends on February 16, 2026. Pictured is a genetically modified, auspicious white snake on the altar of the Temple of White Snakes in Taoyuan county, Taiwan. (AP Photo/Wally Santana, File)*

What sign are you?

Find the year you were born. Those born in January or February should consult page 12.

1900, 1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020 — Rat
1901, 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021 — Ox
1902, 1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022 — Tiger
1903, 1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023 — Rabbit
1904, 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024 — Dragon
1905, 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013, 2025 — Snake
1906, 1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014, 2026 — Horse
1907, 1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015, 2027 — Sheep
1908, 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016, 2028 — Monkey
1909, 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017, 2029 — Rooster
1910, 1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, 2030 — Dog
1911, 1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, 2031 — Pig

◆ ◆ ◆

The Gregorian and Chinese lunar calendars

Animal	*Gregorian*	*Chinese*
Snake	January 29, 2025	Year 4723
Horse	February 17, 2026	Year 4724
Sheep	February 6, 2027	Year 4725
Monkey	January 26, 2028	Year 4726
Rooster	February 13, 2029	Year 4727
Dog	February 3, 2030	Year 4728
Pig	January 23, 2031	Year 4729
Rat	February 11, 2032	Year 4730
Ox	January 31, 2033	Year 4731
Tiger	February 19, 2034	Year 4732
Rabbit	February 8, 2035	Year 4733
Dragon	January 28, 2036	Year 4734

A few animal characteristics

Rat: Honest, idealistic, practical, sentimental, argumentative, greedy
Ox: Careful, diligent, eloquent, patient, eccentric, stubborn
Tiger: Ambitious, dynamic, honorable, loyal, critical, impatient
Rabbit: Artistic, considerate, intelligent, peaceful, hesitant, judgemental
Dragon: Energetic, faithful, generous, sincere, defensive, opinionated
Snake: Charitable, elegant, organized, reflective, anxious, possessive
Horse: Calm, confident, independent, talented, contradictory, moody
Sheep: Adaptive, creative, empathetic, polite, impractical, pessimistic
Monkey: Charming, sensitive, vivacious, wise, cunning, selfish
Rooster: Adventurous, courageous, funny, hardworking, cynical, vain
Dog: Brave, devoted, knowledgeable, trustworthy, disagreeable, strict
Pig: Affectionate, cheerful, obliging, optimistic, naïve, snobbish

Read your forecast for the Year of the Snake! Horoscopes by Madame Mingmei begin on page 14.

What is Lunar New Year and how is it celebrated?

By Deepa Bharath
The Associated Press

On January 29, Asian American communities around the U.S. will ring in the Year of the Snake with community carnivals, family gatherings, parades, traditional food, fireworks, and other festivities. In many Asian countries, it is a festival that is celebrated for several days. In diaspora communities, particularly in cultural enclaves, Lunar New Year is visibly and joyfully observed.

According to the Chinese zodiac, 2025 is the Year of the Snake. Different countries across Asia celebrate the new year in many ways and may follow a different zodiac.

What is the Lunar New Year?

The Lunar New Year — known as the Spring Festival in China, Tet in Vietnam, and Seollal in Korea — is a major festival celebrated in several Asian countries. It is also widely celebrated by diaspora communities around the world.

It begins with the first new moon of the lunar calendar and ends 15 days later on the first full moon. Because the lunar calendar is based on the cycles of the moon, the dates of the holiday vary slightly each year, falling between late January and mid-February. (Please consult the Lunar Calendar on page 12 for specific dates.)

What are the animals of the zodiac?

Each year honors an animal based on the lunar zodiac. The circle of 12 animals — the Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig — measure the cycles of time. Legend has it that a god beckoned all animals to bid him farewell before his departure from earth and only 12 of them showed up. The Vietnamese zodiac is slightly different, honoring the Cat instead of the Rabbit, the Buffalo instead of the Ox, the Ram instead of the Sheep, and the Cock instead of the Rooster. In the Tibetan cycle, the Rat is referred to as the Mouse, the Rabbit is referred to as the Hare, and the Rooster as the Bird.

What are some beliefs and traditions around the Lunar New Year?

One well-known ancient legend speaks of Nian, a hideous monster that feasted on human flesh on New Year's Day. Because the beast feared the color red, loud noises, and fire, people put up red paper dragons on their doors, burned red lanterns all night, and set off firecrackers to frighten and chase away the monster.

To this day, the Lunar New Year celebration is centered around removing bad luck and welcoming all that is good and prosperous. Red is considered an auspicious color to ring in the new year. In many Asian cultures, the color symbolizes good fortune and joy. People dress up in red attire, decorate their homes with red paper lanterns, and use red envelopes to give loved ones and friends money for the new year, symbolizing good wishes for the year ahead. Gambling and playing traditional games is common during this time across cultures.

Ancestor worship is also common during this time. Many Korean families participate in a ritual called "charye," where female family members prepare food and male members serve it to ancestors. The final step of the ceremony, called "eumbok," involves the entire family partaking the food and seeking blessings from their ancestors for the coming year. Vietnamese people cook traditional dishes and place them on a home altar as a mark of respect to their ancestors.

Some Indigenous people also celebrate Lunar New Year this time of year, including members of Mexico's Purepecha Indigenous group.

How do diaspora communities celebrate?

Members of Asian American communities around the U.S. also organize parades, carnivals, and festivities around the Lunar New Year featuring lion and dragon dances, fireworks, traditional food, and cultural performances. In addition to cleaning their homes, many buy new things for their home such as furniture and decorate using orchids and other brightly colored flowers.

Lunar New Year is also celebrated as a cultural event by some Asian American Christians and is observed by several Catholic dioceses across the U.S. as well as

Continued on page 10

The Year of the Snake

The Snake is the sixth animal of the lunar zodiac. Those born under the Snake sign are generally considered to be amusing, charitable, and sympathetic individuals who are perceptive and discreet. They are also known for their tendency to be jealous and can be pessimistic and suspicious.

Wood Snakes

Snakes born between January 29, 2025 and February 16, 2026 are Wood Snakes. The Wood element represents growth and renewal, so many Wood Snakes are wise and easygoing, and enjoy innovative and creative environments. They prefer that few restrictions to be placed on them and often are musicians, poets, painters, or collectors. Similar to many Snakes, Wood Snakes desire a life of luxury and care about their appearance. The Wood Snake was last celebrated 60 years ago in 1965. It will reappear again in 60 years, in 2085.

Snake facts

Year of the Snake: January 29, 2025 and February 16, 2026

Chinese Calendar Year: 4723

Snake Years: 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013, 2025

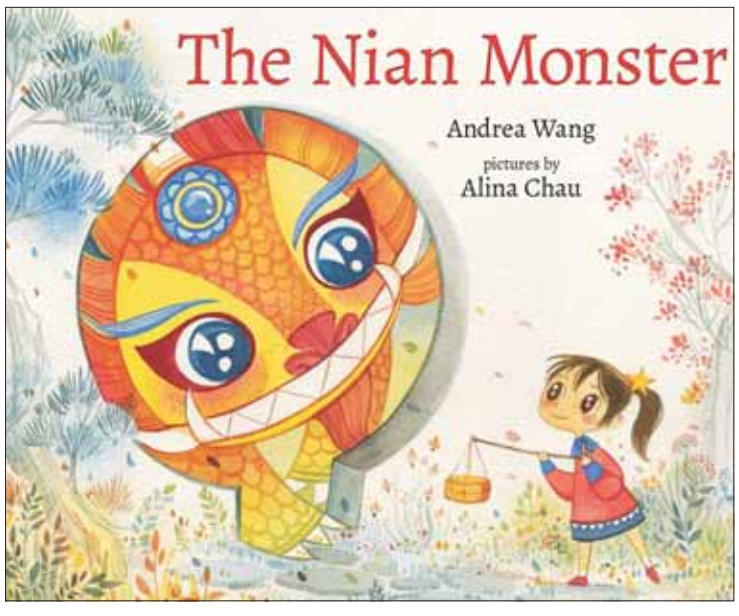
Characteristics: People born under the sign of the Snake are generally considered to be determined, gregarious, and honorable individuals who are well-mannered and reflective. They can also be intense and possessive as well as calculating and cruel.

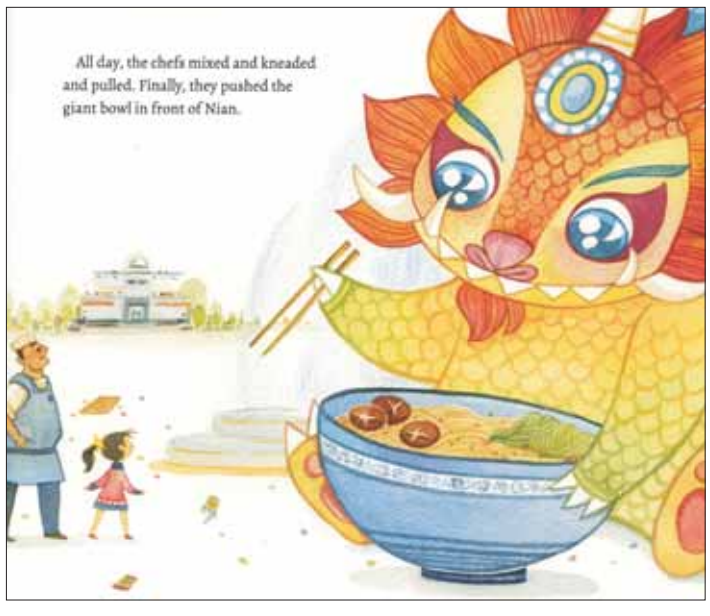
Born in the Year of the Snake: Mohatma Ghandhi, Indira Ghandhi, Benazir Bhutto, Mao Tse-tung, Mom Rajawong Seni Pramoj, Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Oprah Winfrey, Alfred Nobel, Pablo Picasso, Anne Rice, Park Jae-sang (Psy), Taylor Swift, and J.K. Rowling.

Young Xingling faces a fierce foe in Andrea Wang's *The Nian Monster*

The Nian Monster
By Andrea Wang
Illustrations by Alina Chau
Albert Whitman & Company, 2024
Paperback, 32 pages, $9.99

By Kathleen Liermann
The Asian Reporter





Andrea Wang's *The Nian Monster* begins in Shanghai three days prior to the Lunar New Year. A market in the city is alive with vendors, families, and vibrant colors drawn by the book's illustrator, Alina Chau.

In the story, readers soon meet Xingling and her grandmother, who are hanging a red lantern — the last of their New Year decorations.

"Po Po, why are they all red," asks Xingling.

Together with Xingling, we learn about the ancient legend of the Nian Monster.

"Long ago," Po Po says, "the Nian Monster lived in the mountains. His jaws were as wide as caverns. His teeth were sharper than swords. And he was filled with a terrible hunger. Each new year, Nian ate whole villages."

Xingling gasped, but was soon reassured by her smiling grandmother: "Every monster has a weakness. Nian had three — loud sounds, fire, and the color red. Our traditions have kept Nian away ever since."

When Po Po leaves to buy more noodles, Xingling takes over in the kitchen, stirring a pot of pork and cabbage, when a horrible beast appears on the balcony.

"Ai ya," Xingling says defiantly to Nian.

Nian roars and growls, "I have come to devour this city!"

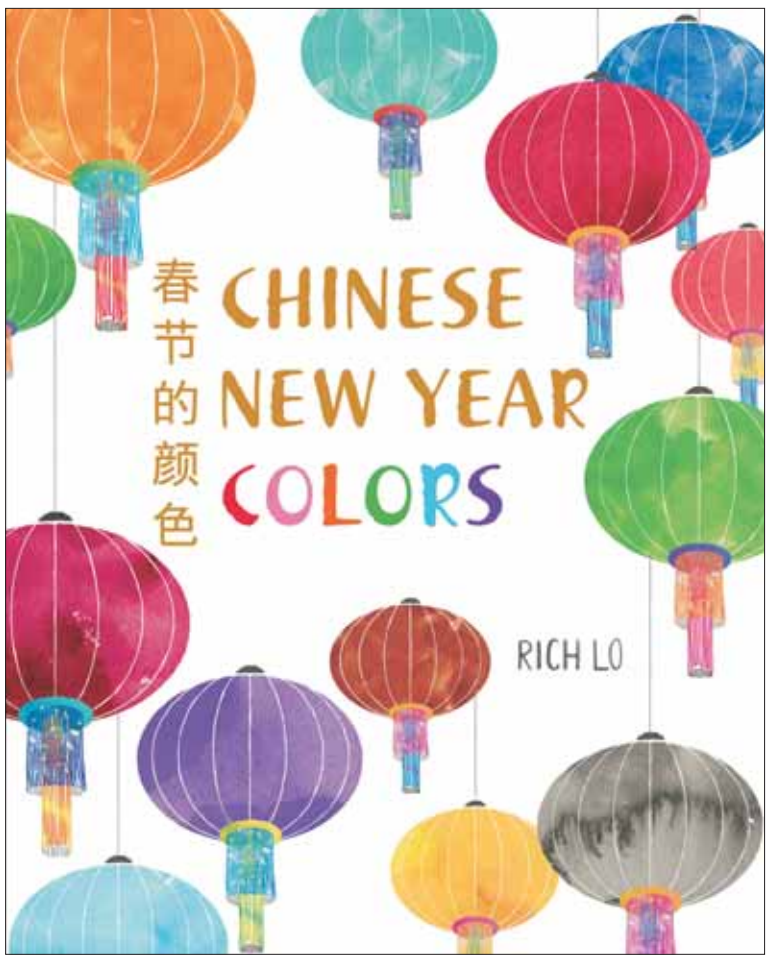
While all the buildings in the city shake from the sounds, Xingling tries to scare away Nian with gongs, drums, and red lanterns and banners to no avail.

Continued on page 11

Author & illustrator Rich Lo teaches young readers about Lunar New Year

Chinese New Year Colors
By Rich Lo
Holiday House, 2022
Paperback, 32 pages, $8.99

By Jody Lim
The Asian Reporter



COLORS OF THE NEW YEAR. *Chinese New Year Colors, a colorful bilingual book by author, illustrator, and fine artist Rich Lo, is aimed at children from preschool through third grade.*

Chinese New Year Colors, by author, illustrator, and fine artist Rich Lo, is a book aimed at children from preschool through third grade. My nephew, a first-grader who is learning to read, and I enjoyed reading the colorful bilingual book together.

The first color we encountered was red — a highly auspicious color which represents celebration, prosperity, good luck, and more — in the form of firecrackers, which are often heard during the New Year and are "believed to scare away evil spirits."

Later, we saw the color gold accompanied by a lucky gold coin, which sometimes has an image of the "zodiac animal for the corresponding year of issue." When asked after finishing the book, which page was his favorite, without hesitation he said "gold!"

Readers are introduced to many colors and items — green and lucky bamboo, pink and a chrysanthemum, purple and the dragon dance, cerulean and the lion dance (which was his second favorite page).

The book is organized in a great way for young readers, with the colors written in English and Mandarin alongside the Lunar New Year objects. Located at the end of the book are explanations for the items, which made for expanded conversations.

Chinese New Year Colors is aimed at youngsters, of course, but all readers are able to learn about Lunar New Year traditions from Rich Lo and his educational book.

What is Lunar New Year and how is it celebrated?

Continued from page 8

other churches.

What are some special foods for the new year?

Each culture has its own list of special foods during the new year, including dumplings, rice cakes, spring rolls, tangerines, fish, and meats. In the Chinese culture, for example, "changshou mian" or "long-life noodles" are consumed with a wish for a long, healthy, and happy life. In Vietnamese culture, banh chung and banh tet — traditional dishes made from glutinous rice — are a must for the celebrations. To make a banh tet, banana leaves are lined with rice, soft mung beans, and pork belly and rolled into a tight log, which is then wrapped in the leaves and tied up with strings. Koreans celebrate with tteokguk, a brothy soup that contains thinly sliced rice cakes.

Associated Press religion coverage receives support through The AP's collaboration with The Conversation US, with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. The AP is solely responsible for content.

Lunar New Year events

"New Years All Year Round"

Currently on display, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). View "New Years All Year Round," a fun, family-friendly exhibit that looks at the origins of New Year traditions, colors, cuisine, and more, including lion dances, drums, and firecrackers. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

Japanese New Year celebration

Jan 12, 10am-2:30pm, Portland Japanese Garden (611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland). Ring in the incoming Year of the Snake at *O-Shogatsu*, the traditional Japanese New Year celebration. The family-friendly event includes *sumi-e*, Japanese ink-wash painting (10:00am to 2:30pm); *Edo Kotobuki Jishi*, the celebratory traditional lion dance of Tokyo, performed by Portland Shishimai Kai (10:30am & 1:00pm); a *Ryomen Odori* performance, a double-masked dance (11:30am); and more. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 223-1321 or visit <www.japanesegarden.com>.

Shinnenkai

Jan 16, 6-9pm, Patricia Reser Center for the Arts (12625 SW Crescent St, Beaverton, Ore.). Attend Shinnenkai, a Japanese New Year Party presented by SakéOne. The event features authentic food and drink, entertainment, activities, *fukubukuro* (lucky bags), a performance by Takohachi, and new year postcard-making. For info, call (503) 552-8811. To buy tickets (advance purchase required), visit <www.jaso.org/2025-calendar>.

2025 Lunar New Year Fair at The Wing

Jan 18, 10am-3pm; 10am (lion dance); 11am (indoor fair opens); Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). Celebrate the Year of the Snake at the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience's family-friendly Lunar New Year Fair. Events include an outdoor lion dance performance by the Mak Fai Kung Fu Dragon and Lion Dance Association, information booths, art activities, storytime, and more. The free outdoor lion dance and speaking program begin at 10:00am. Indoor activities require paid museum admission. Attendees should check in at the white tent with the "pre-check" sign on King Street to obtain entry wristbands. For info, or to purchase timed tickets (highly suggested), call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

Knotting Together Lunar New Year event

Jan 19, 2-3:30pm, Multnomah County Central Library, Large Community Room 1A (801 SW 10th Ave, Portland). Tweens, teens, and adults are invited to Knotting Together, a Lunar New Year-themed event. For info, or to register (required), call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Tet 2025 at Holgate Library

Jan 22, 5-7pm, Holgate Library, Large Community Rooms 1A + 1B (7905 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland). Youth and families are invited to a Tet celebration featuring crafts, a fashion show, holiday games, and more. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Lunar New Year Craft

Jan 25, 10:30am-noon, Cedar Mill Library (1080 NW Saltzman Rd, Portland). Welcome in the Year of the Snake at Cedar Mill Library. People of all ages are invited to create paper lanterns, color snake-themed coloring sheets, and participate in paper cutting. For info, call (503) 644-0043 or visit <https://library.cedarmill.org>.

Continued on page 13

Year of the Snake stamp added to USPS' third series

The third series of Lunar New Year stamps issued by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) will soon welcome its Year of the Snake stamp. The first-day-of-issue ceremony for the Snake stamp will be held January 14 at the Wang Theatre in Boston.

The Lunar New Year is one of the most important holidays of the year for many Asian communities around the world and is celebrated by people of Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Malaysian, Mongolian, Tibetan, Vietnamese, and other heritages.

Millions of people across the globe will mark the Lunar New Year this month by hosting parades and parties, decorating with red and gold lanterns, setting off firecrackers to ward off evil spirits, and inviting family and friends to share traditional foods to welcome the new year. Gifts are also given and houses are cleaned to commemorate this time of renewal.

People born in the Year of the Snake are said to be quiet, wise, and deep-thinking, making them proficient musicians, philosophers, writers, and teachers. The Snake Year is sometimes referred to as the "Little Dragon Year" because it follows the Dragon on the zodiac. In 2025, we welcome the Year of the Wood Snake, which

SSSNAKES SSSURFACE. *A new Year of the Snake stamp (left image) is part of a third series of Lunar New Year stamps issued by the U.S. Postal Service. Previous Snake stamps were issued in 2001 (top right) and 2013 (bottom right). (Images courtesy of the U.S. Postal Service)*

begins January 29, 2025 and ends February 16, 2026.

The 2025 Snake stamp features a green 3-dimensional mask of a snake, a contemporary take on the long tradition of paper-cut folk-art crafts created during this festive time of year. Created by artist Camille Chew, the stamp is a forever stamp, meaning it will always be equal in value to the current first-class mail one-ounce price.

Lunar New Year stamps began in 1992

The very first USPS Lunar New Year stamp was issued in 1992 and represented the Year of the Rooster. Worth 29 cents, the stamp had a paper-cut two-dimensional look in addition to *kanji* characters written by a professional calligrapher. The remaining 11 animals in the lunar zodiac followed each year.

The initial series was completed with the issuance of the Year of the Monkey stamp, which was later followed with a pane of stamps featuring all 12 animals.

Late artist Clarence Lee, an American of Chinese descent who was born in Honolulu, designed the original USPS series.

Second series released in 2008

Following the conclusion of the first series of stamps, members of the Asian community urged USPS to continue its issuance of Lunar New Year stamps annually, which led to a second set that was called the Celebrating Lunar New Year series.

Instead of illustrating the zodiac animals in the new series, artist Kam Mak

Continued on page 15

Young Xingling faces a fierce foe in Andrea Wang's *The Nian Monster*

Continued from page 9

"You will make a tasty appetizer," Nian says to the girl, licking its lips.

Xingling tries to delay the scary monster: "Have a bowl of long-life noodles first."

Nian replies: "You are wise, little one. Noodles first, then you, then the city."

Xingling enlists the best noodle shop in town to create the dish, which delays the monster. "My stomach is too stuffed to eat more … I will devour the city tomorrow," Nian groans.

Upon Nian's return the next day, brave Xingling yells at the monster, "Wait! Eat fish first so you will have a good fortune all year long."

Nian again replies: "You are wise, little one. Fish first, then you, then the city."

Xingling enlists the best fishing fleet in Shanghai to catch milkfish for the hungry monster, to which Nian concludes, "I will devour the city tomorrow."

The next morning, Nian's wide, wicked jaws confront Xingling yet again, to which the girl says, "Tonight is New Year's Eve. You need some rice cakes to sweeten your future."

"You are wise, little one. Rice cakes first, then you, then the city," says Nian.

Do the rice cakes send Nian away for another year? Are firecrackers successful in concluding the old year in order to allow the welcoming of the new one? Will dancing dragons appear?

To find out if Xingling is able to expel Nian, readers must check out a copy of Andrea Wang and Alina Chau's *The Nian Monster*, which is an adorable and entertaining way to introduce young ones to the traditions of the Lunar New Year.

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
Feb. 19, 1901 to Feb. 07, 1902 — Metal Ox
Feb. 08, 1902 to Jan. 28, 1903 — Water Tiger
Jan. 29, 1903 to Feb. 15, 1904 — Water Rabbit
Feb. 16, 1904 to Feb. 03, 1905 — Wood Dragon
Feb. 04, 1905 to Jan. 24, 1906 — Wood Snake
Jan. 25, 1906 to Feb. 12, 1907 — Fire Horse
Feb. 13, 1907 to Feb. 01, 1908 — Fire Sheep
Feb. 02, 1908 to Jan. 21, 1909 — Earth Monkey
Jan. 22, 1909 to Feb. 09, 1910 — Earth Rooster

Feb. 10, 1910 to Jan. 29, 1911 — Metal Dog
Jan. 30, 1911 to Feb. 17, 1912 — Metal Pig
Feb. 18, 1912 to Feb. 05, 1913 — Water Rat
Feb. 06, 1913 to Jan. 25, 1914 — Water Ox
Jan. 26, 1914 to Feb. 13, 1915 — Wood Tiger
Feb. 14, 1915 to Feb. 02, 1916 — Wood Rabbit
Feb. 03, 1916 to Jan. 22, 1917 — Fire Dragon
Jan. 23, 1917 to Feb. 10, 1918 — Fire Snake
Feb. 11, 1918 to Jan. 31, 1919 — Earth Horse
Feb. 01, 1919 to Feb. 19, 1920 — Earth Sheep

Feb. 20, 1920 to Feb. 07, 1921 — Metal Monkey
Feb. 08, 1921 to Jan. 27, 1922 — Metal Rooster
Jan. 28, 1922 to Feb. 15, 1923 — Water Dog
Feb. 16, 1923 to Feb. 04, 1924 — Water Pig
Feb. 05, 1924 to Jan. 24, 1925 — Wood Rat
Jan. 25, 1925 to Feb. 12, 1926 — Wood Ox
Feb. 13, 1926 to Feb. 01, 1927 — Fire Tiger
Feb. 02, 1927 to Jan. 22, 1928 — Fire Rabbit
Jan. 23, 1928 to Feb. 09, 1929 — Earth Dragon
Feb. 10, 1929 to Jan. 29, 1930 — Earth Snake

Jan. 30, 1930 to Feb. 16, 1931 — Metal Horse
Feb. 17, 1931 to Feb. 05, 1932 — Metal Sheep
Feb. 06, 1932 to Jan. 25, 1933 — Water Monkey
Jan. 26, 1933 to Feb. 13, 1934 — Water Rooster
Feb. 14, 1934 to Feb. 03, 1935 — Wood Dog
Feb. 04, 1935 to Jan. 23, 1936 — Wood Pig
Jan. 24, 1936 to Feb. 10, 1937 — Fire Rat
Feb. 11, 1937 to Jan. 30, 1938 — Fire Ox
Jan. 31, 1938 to Feb. 18, 1939 — Earth Tiger
Feb. 19, 1939 to Feb. 07, 1940 — Earth Rabbit

Feb. 08, 1940 to Jan. 26, 1941 — Metal Dragon
Jan. 27, 1941 to Feb. 14, 1942 — Metal Snake
Feb. 15, 1942 to Feb. 04, 1943 — Water Horse
Feb. 05, 1943 to Jan. 24, 1944 — Water Sheep
Jan. 25, 1944 to Feb. 12, 1945 — Wood Monkey
Feb. 13, 1945 to Feb. 01, 1946 — Wood Rooster
Feb. 02, 1946 to Jan. 21, 1947 — Fire Dog
Jan. 22, 1947 to Feb. 09, 1948 — Fire Pig
Feb. 10, 1948 to Jan. 28, 1949 — Earth Rat
Jan. 29, 1949 to Feb. 16, 1950 — Earth Ox

Feb. 17, 1950 to Feb. 05, 1951 — Metal Tiger
Feb. 06, 1951 to Jan. 26, 1952 — Metal Rabbit
Jan. 27, 1952 to Feb. 13, 1953 — Water Dragon
Feb. 14, 1953 to Feb. 02, 1954 — Water Snake
Feb. 03, 1954 to Jan. 23, 1955 — Wood Horse
Jan. 24, 1955 to Feb. 11, 1956 — Wood Sheep
Feb. 12, 1956 to Jan. 30, 1957 — Fire Monkey
Jan. 31, 1957 to Feb. 17, 1958 — Fire Rooster
Feb. 18, 1958 to Feb. 07, 1959 — Earth Dog
Feb. 08, 1959 to Jan. 27, 1960 — Earth Pig

Jan. 28, 1960 to Feb. 14, 1961 — Metal Rat
Feb. 15, 1961 to Feb. 04, 1962 — Metal Ox
Feb. 05, 1962 to Jan. 24, 1963 — Water Tiger
Jan. 25, 1963 to Feb. 12, 1964 — Water Rabbit
Feb. 13, 1964 to Feb. 01, 1965 — Wood Dragon
Feb. 02, 1965 to Jan. 20, 1966 — Wood Snake
Jan. 21, 1966 to Feb. 08, 1967 — Fire Horse
Feb. 09, 1967 to Jan. 29, 1968 — Fire Sheep
Jan. 30, 1968 to Feb. 16, 1969 — Earth Monkey
Feb. 17, 1969 to Feb. 05, 1970 — Earth Rooster

Feb. 06, 1970 to Jan. 26, 1971 — Metal Dog
Jan. 27, 1971 to Jan. 14, 1972 — Metal Pig
Jan. 15, 1972 to Feb. 02, 1973 — Water Rat
Feb. 03, 1973 to Jan. 22, 1974 — Water Ox
Jan. 23, 1974 to Feb. 10, 1975 — Wood Tiger
Feb. 11, 1975 to Jan. 30, 1976 — Wood Rabbit
Jan. 31, 1976 to Feb. 17, 1977 — Fire Dragon
Feb. 18, 1977 to Feb. 06, 1978 — Fire Snake
Feb. 07, 1978 to Jan. 27, 1979 — Earth Horse
Jan. 28, 1979 to Feb. 15, 1980 — Earth Sheep

Feb. 16, 1980 to Feb. 04, 1981 — Metal Monkey
Feb. 05, 1981 to Jan. 24, 1982 — Metal Rooster
Jan. 25, 1982 to Feb. 12, 1983 — Water Dog
Feb. 13, 1983 to Feb. 01, 1984 — Water Pig
Feb. 02, 1984 to Feb. 19, 1985 — Wood Rat
Feb. 20, 1985 to Feb. 08, 1986 — Wood Ox
Feb. 09, 1986 to Jan. 28, 1987 — Fire Tiger
Jan. 29, 1987 to Feb. 16, 1988 — Fire Rabbit
Feb. 17, 1988 to Feb. 05, 1989 — Earth Dragon
Feb. 06, 1989 to Jan. 26, 1990 — Earth Snake

Jan. 27, 1990 to Feb. 14, 1991 — Metal Horse
Feb. 15, 1991 to Feb. 03, 1992 — Metal Sheep
Feb. 04, 1992 to Jan. 22, 1993 — Water Monkey
Jan. 23, 1993 to Feb. 09, 1994 — Water Rooster
Feb. 10, 1994 to Jan. 30, 1995 — Wood Dog
Jan. 31, 1995 to Feb. 18, 1996 — Wood Pig
Feb. 19, 1996 to Feb. 07, 1997 — Fire Rat
Feb. 08, 1997 to Jan. 27, 1998 — Fire Ox
Jan. 28, 1998 to Feb. 05, 1999 — Earth Tiger
Feb. 06, 1999 to Feb. 04, 2000 — Earth Rabbit

Feb. 05, 2000 to Jan. 23, 2001 — Metal Dragon
Jan. 24, 2001 to Feb. 11, 2002 — Metal Snake
Feb. 12, 2002 to Jan. 31, 2003 — Water Horse
Feb. 01, 2003 to Jan. 21, 2004 — Water Sheep
Jan. 22, 2004 to Feb. 08, 2005 — Wood Monkey
Feb. 09, 2005 to Jan. 28, 2006 — Wood Rooster
Jan. 29, 2006 to Feb. 17, 2007 — Fire Dog
Feb. 18, 2007 to Feb. 06, 2008 — Fire Pig
Feb. 07, 2008 to Jan. 25, 2009 — Earth Rat
Jan. 26, 2009 to Feb. 13, 2010 — Earth Ox

Feb. 14, 2010 to Feb. 02, 2011 — Metal Tiger
Feb. 03, 2011 to Jan. 22, 2012 — Metal Rabbit
Jan. 23, 2012 to Feb. 09, 2013 — Water Dragon
Feb. 10, 2013 to Jan. 30, 2014 — Water Snake
Jan. 31, 2014 to Feb. 18, 2015 — Wood Horse
Feb. 19, 2015 to Feb. 07, 2016 — Wood Sheep
Feb. 08, 2016 to Jan. 27, 2017 — Fire Monkey
Jan. 28, 2017 to Feb. 15, 2018 — Fire Rooster
Feb. 16, 2018 to Feb. 04, 2019 — Earth Dog
Feb. 05, 2019 to Jan. 24, 2020 — Earth Pig

Jan. 25, 2020 to Feb. 11, 2021 — Metal Rat
Feb. 12, 2021 to Jan. 31, 2022 — Metal Ox
Feb. 01, 2022 to Jan. 21, 2023 — Water Tiger
Jan. 22, 2023 to Feb. 09, 2024 — Water Rabbit
Feb. 10, 2024 to Jan. 28, 2025 — Wood Dragon
Jan. 29, 2025 to Feb. 16, 2026 — Wood Snake
Feb. 17, 2026 to Feb. 05, 2027 — Fire Horse
Feb. 06, 2027 to Jan. 25, 2028 — Fire Sheep

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

Lunar New Year events

Continued from page 11

Lunar New Year 2025

Jan 25, 11am-1pm, Hillsboro Public Library, Brookwood (2850 NE Brookwood Pkwy, Hillsboro, Ore.). Celebrate Lunar New Year 2025 — the Year of the Snake — at the Hillsboro Public Library on Brookwood. Lunar New Year, also known as Spring Festival or Chinese New Year, is the biggest and most important celebration in many countries throughout Asia and across the globe. For info, call (503) 615-6500 or visit <www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/our-city/departments/library>.

Tet 2025 at Gregory Heights Library

Jan 25, 2-3:30pm, Gregory Heights Library (7921 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland). Youth, families, and adults are invited to a Tet celebration featuring calligraphy, singing, dancing, and more. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Tet in Seattle

Jan 25-26, Seattle Center (305 Harrison St, Seattle). Attend *Tet Nguyen Dan* — the Vietnamese New Year — presented by Seattle Center Festál in partnership with Tet in Seattle. Tet in Seattle 2025 ushers in the Lunar New Year with a lion dance, performances, a fashion show, a health fair, vendors, and more, in celebration of the Year of the Snake. For info and hours, call (206) 684-7200, or visit <www.tetinseattle.org> or <www.seattlecenter.com>.

Lion dances at Uwajimaya

Jan 25, Jan 26 & Feb 2; Jan 25, noon, Seattle Uwajimaya (600 Fifth Ave S, Seattle); Jan 26, noon, Bellevue Uwajimaya (699 120th Ave NE, Bellevue, Wash.); Feb 2, 1:30pm, Uwajimaya Plaza (10500 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy, Beaverton, Ore.); TBA, Renton Uwajimaya (501 South Grady Way, Renton, Wash.). Visit your area Uwajimaya to experience a lion dance performance, a celebration aimed at bringing good luck, happiness, and a fresh start in the year ahead. For info, call (206) 624-6248 (Seattle), (425) 747-9012 (Bellevue), (503) 643-4512 (Beaverton), or (425) 277-1635 (Renton), or visit <www.uwajimaya.com>.

Lunar New Year celebration at Milwaukie Community Center

Jan 26, 1-3:30pm, Milwaukie Community Center (5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr, Milwaukie, Ore.). Usher out the old year and welcome prosperity into the new year at the Milwaukie Community Center. The 2025 Lunar New Year celebration features a live lion dance performance, interactive activities, crafts, music, and more. Participants are able to drop in anytime. For info, call (503) 653-8100 or visit <www.ncprd.com/event/lunar-new-year>.

"Craft Your Own Lion Dance Head"

Jan 26, 2-4pm, Midland Library, Large Community Rooms 1A + 1B (805 SE 122nd Ave, Portland). Get ready for the Lunar New Year by creating a lion dance head. Participants of all ages are invited to attend and Midland Library provides the craft supplies needed. Celebrants are also invited to bring their new creation to the Lunar New Year celebration on Sunday, February 2, which features the White Lotus Dragon & Lion Dance Team. The craft event is able to accommodate up to 80 people. For info, or to register (suggested), call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

CELEBRATING THE SERPENT. *The Lunar New Year Family Festival at the Seattle Asian Art Museum takes place February 1 from 11:00am to 2:00pm. The family-friendly day welcomes the Year of the Snake and includes lion dances, activities, storytime, and more. (Photo/Jen Au)*

The Orchid Trio

Jan 26, 3-4pm, Woodstock Library (6008 SE 49th Ave, Portland). Attend a free concert by The Orchid Trio in celebration of the Lunar New Year. The Orchid Trio features traditional music from many regions of China performed by violinist Siying Ge, violist Deborah Shuster, and cellist Quinn Liu. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Lunar New Year at Lan Su

Jan 29-Feb 23 (daily), 10am-4pm, Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). Ring in the Lunar New Year — the Year of the Snake — with lion dances, cultural performances, festival decorations, family craft activities, storytime, Chinese calligraphy demonstrations, "Sssslither Into The New Year" Creature Teacher meet-and-greets, and more at Lan Su Chinese Garden. Another highlight of the celebration is Lunar New Year Lantern Viewing — illuminated hanging red lanterns

Continued on page 15

Year of the Snake forecasts

We hope you enjoy Madame Mingmei's Year of the Snake forecasts.

The first prediction applies to each animal sign (Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig) for the new lunar year.

Each prediction is followed by an additional forecast specific to one's element (metal, water, wood, fire, earth).

To find out what sign and element apply to you, turn to page 12 and look up your date of birth.

By Madame Mingmei

Special to The Asian Reporter

The Rat

Following a Dragon Year with some obstacles, a compassionate and dynamic Rat should experience good fortune in 2025. Honest, imaginative, and open-minded Rats will scamper across plenty of opportunities, but a greedy, self-obsessed one will not. The year will bring with it some challenges, but staying your patient and practical self will help in overcoming any issues.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Rat**: Focusing on good health is an important goal in 2025.

■ **Water Rat**: The practical Water Rat should focus on a specific skill to create a solid foundation for the future.

■ **Wood Rat**: Stay on top of your expenses and make an effort to save funds for a rainy day.

■ **Fire Rat**: Help raise up those around you. Your efforts will not only help them, but also bring you joy and satisfaction.

■ **Earth Rat**: Opportunity may come knocking; be sure to act promptly after consulting a trusted friend.

◆

The Ox

After weathering some obstacles in 2024, the Year of the Snake should be good in many ways for a careful, clear-thinking, and confident Ox. Those who are hardworking and organized would be wise to obtain the advice of friends and elders periodically. Remember to be cautious partaking in adventures and finish all tasks that are started. Practical and serious Oxen should avoid judging others too quickly.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Ox**: Work on listening to others in 2025.

■ **Water Ox**: Adaptable Water Oxen should surround themselves with positive people.

■ **Wood Ox**: Wood Oxen are advised to read a lot to acquire more knowledge.

■ **Fire Ox**: Working on consistency is a good goal.

■ **Earth Ox**: Leaning on your creativity may lead to new opportunities.

◆

The Tiger

Ambitious and loyal Tigers should see positive developments this year following a mostly rewarding 2024, as long as good strategies and goals are put in place. Avoid being impatient or hotheaded and remember to pay attention to everyone and everything around you. Hard work will be rewarded during the Snake Year as long as you keep a positive attitude and are respectful of others.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Tiger**: Try to keep emotions in check, Metal Tiger, to avoid bad situations.

■ **Water Tiger**: The determined Water Tiger should use 2025 to solidify their sense of security and stability.

■ **Wood Tiger**: The top priority for Wood Tigers is to focus on both starting and finishing all projects.

■ **Fire Tiger**: Remain ambitious, as always, but avoid being stubborn.

■ **Earth Tiger**: During this Snake Year, a good goal is to work on thinking clearly.

◆

The Rabbit

After experiencing a Dragon Year with good fortune, 2025 will bring both success and struggles. Hospitable, sensitive, and principled Rabbits should hop to new opportunities and challenges after consulting friends and family. When considering new friendships and relationships, avoid being gossipy, judgemental, or self-centered. Well-mannered and considerate Rabbits should gnaw on a new hobby.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Rabbit**: Diplomatic Metal Rabbits may nibble on success in 2025.

■ **Water Rabbit**: The Year of the Snake may present many activities to keep you very busy.

■ **Wood Rabbit**: Having patience with others will reap many rewards.

■ **Fire Rabbit**: Burrow out of your comfort zone and plan something with others rather than alone.

■ **Earth Rabbit**: The hospitable Earth Rabbit should volunteer their time this Snake Year.

◆

The Dragon

After celebrating your year in 2024, which was filled with many opportunities, dynamic and energetic Dragons should find success in 2025 if they avoid being defensive or impatient. Make smart, informed choices where money is involved and spend time and energy on long-held goals. The Snake Year is a good one to expand your knowledge and learn a new skill.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Dragon**: Be generous this Year of the Snake when helping out a friend.

■ **Water Dragon**: Work on being patient with other people and provide assistance, if possible.

■ **Wood Dragon**: Throw caution aside this Snake Year and focus on an educational opportunity.

■ **Fire Dragon**: Fire up your energy when a friend or family member asks for a favor.

■ **Earth Dragon**: Being decisive will benefit Earth Dragons in 2025.

◆

The Snake

It's your year and it's time to get busy taking on new opportunities and experiences. The curious and fun-loving Snake should see success as long as they are determined and not judgemental. You've waited 12 long years for 2025, so don't throw your wisdom or organizational skills to the wind when presented with a new challenge.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Snake**: Stay on top of issues that may slither into view.

■ **Water Snake**: Your Snake Year should present good opportunities to blossom and grow.

■ **Wood Snake**: Draw on your independence and try something new in the coming months.

■ **Fire Snake**: Productive Fire Snakes may encounter an interesting year.

■ **Earth Snake**: Perceptive Earth Snakes should consider expanding their social circle.

◆

The Horse

Luck appears in store for generous, sincere, and energetic Horses, but careless or moody ones may not have the same result. Those who are enterprising and enthusiastic will see promising opportunities cross their trail and those who obtain new skills will also be rewarded. During the Snake Year, make an extra effort to be active in order to maintain good health.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Horse**: Confidence is the key to success during the Year of the Snake.

■ **Water Horse**: Utilize your social skills to help a stranger or friend.

■ **Wood Horse**: Your problem-solving skills will come in handy in 2025.

■ **Fire Horse**: Always give your best to make each day a little better for those around you.

■ **Earth Horse**: Take a moment to enjoy the fruits of your hard work and dedication.

◆

The Sheep

Following an up-and-down 2024, adaptable and creative Sheep should find success and a sense of accomplishment during the Snake Year. Generous and honest Sheep may even be presented with a unique opportunity. Sound financial decisions should be a top priority, so be frugal when making purchases. Keeping an optimistic attitude is also key, lest you shear off good chances by being irrational.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Sheep**: The Year of the Snake should be a fun, positive time for Metal Sheep who are generous.

■ **Water Sheep**: Impulsive Water Sheep should try to keep their emotions in check.

■ **Wood Sheep**: Set aside your insecurities and try a new hobby.

■ **Fire Sheep**: Think more innovatively this year.

■ **Earth Sheep**: Paying attention to your health is a great goal.

◆

The Monkey

After a pretty good Dragon Year, 2025 is looking mostly lucky for the charming, cooperative, and generous Monkey. Remember to stay your inventive and creative self in order to swing over any obstacle. Monkeys who stay socially active may put themselves in a position to attain a long-term goal. If a good opportunity falls into your path, first evaluate it, then seize on it.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Monkey**: Having patience, Metal Monkey, will yield productive results.

■ **Water Monkey**: Vivacious Water Monkeys should enjoy an active social life in 2025.

■ **Wood Monkey**: Optimism and independence are important characteristics to have during this Snake Year.

■ **Fire Monkey**: Wise Fire Monkeys should take advantage of a potentially productive year.

■ **Earth Monkey**: Enthusiasm is necessary to obtain success in the coming months.

◆

The Rooster

After a mostly fun and productive 2024, Roosters should have good luck in 2025 as long as they utilize their adventurous, brave, and communicative traits. Hard-working and loyal Roosters will have a chance to break through on a long-sought goal. Good health is possible for those who are relaxed and thoughtful, but in jeopardy for Roosters who might be thoughtless and self-absorbed.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Rooster**: Reach out to those around you to realize real progress.

■ **Water Rooster**: Water Roosters should use their enthusiastic nature to benefit a good cause.

■ **Wood Rooster**: Prompt Wood Roosters will peck away at unexpected challenges and prevail.

■ **Fire Rooster**: Fire Roosters should embrace their courage to achieve their goals.

■ **Earth Rooster**: Maintaining a healthy lifestyle may help keep your mind on track.

Continued on page 15

Have a safe and prosperous Year of the Snake!

Lunar New Year events

Continued from page 13

HAPPY NEW YEAR! *The Lunar New Year Dragon Dance Parade & Celebration begins at 10:00am on Saturday, February 8 in Portland's Chinatown. The day of festivities conclude at 1:00pm at the Oregon Historical Society Museum. (Photos/Jeff Lee Photography)*

and large lantern sculptures — which is held during the evening from January 29 through February 16 (separate admission tickets are required). For info, to obtain a complete schedule of activities, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org>.

Chinese Lantern Making

Jan 31, 6-7pm, Friendly House (1737 NW 26th Ave, Portland). Ring in the Lunar New Year with Friendly House at a free Chinese Lantern Making event. Participants create paper lanterns (called Denglong), learn about the history of the holiday, and enjoy traditional Asian snacks. For info, call (503) 228-4391, e-mail <frontdesk@fhpdx.org>, or visit <www.fhpdx.org>.

Lunar New Year Family Festival

Feb 1, 11am-2pm, Seattle Asian Art Museum, Fuller Garden Court (1400 E Prospect St, in Volunteer Park, Seattle). Celebrate the Lunar New Year at the Seattle Asian Art Museum's (SAAM) Family Festival, a family-friendly day featuring lion dances, activities, storytime, and more. SAAM is ringing in the Year of the Wood Snake with a live lion dance at 11:00am, presented by the Lieu Quan Lion Dance team; an illustrated storytime and craft with artist Julie Kim at 11:30am; a wood snake community sculpture designed by local artists Monyee Chau and Jae Eun Kim; a photo booth; dumplings, edamame, and beverages available for purchase from 11:00am to 2:00pm; and a free outdoor lion dance performance by Mak Fai Lion Dance at 1:30pm. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 654-3100 or visit <www.seattleartmuseum.org>.

Chinese New Year Cultural Fair

Feb 1, 11am-5pm, Oregon Convention Center (777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland). Celebrate the Year of the Snake at the Chinese New Year Cultural Fair. The daylong event includes traditional and modern Chinese cultural activities; Chinese folk dance and music; booths offering food, beverages, products, and services; calligraphy; martial arts demonstrations; children's games; and more. For info, or to obtain the full schedule of events, call (503) 771-9560 or (503) 888-6298, or visit <www.portlandchinesetimes.com>.

Oregon 2025 Lunar New Year Gala

Feb 1, 5pm (art & craft activities begin), 7:30pm (performances), Keller Auditorium (222 SW Clay St, Portland). Attend the Oregon 2025 Lunar New Year Gala, an all-ages celebration presented by the Chinese Friendship Association of Portland featuring art and craft activities, entertainment, and more. Performances include comedian Joe Wong, a Peony Flower Dance, martial arts, rhythmic gymnastics, a dance drama, vocalists, and more. For info, or to purchase tickets (seating is reserved), call (503) 248-4335, or visit <www.portland5.com>. To buy group tickets, call (971) 865-7889 or visit <www.portlandcfa.org>.

Lunar New Year celebration at Midland Library

Feb 2, 1-3:30pm, Midland Library, Gathering Circle & Large Community Rooms 1A + 1B (805 SE 122nd Ave, Portland). Celebrate the Lunar New Year at Midland Library. The all-ages event features calligraphy lessons, a fashion show, music, the White Lotus Dragon & Lion Dance Team, and more. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

"Celebrate with Creative Crafts"

Feb 4, 4-7pm, Holgate Library, Large Community Room 2A (7905 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland). Welcome the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Snake, at "Celebrate with Creative Crafts." Youth and families are invited to make a sticker, t-shirt, or bag design using a Silhouette Cameo vinyl cutting machine and a heat press. Other creative materials and 3D pens are also available. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Lunar New Year Dragon Dance Parade & Celebration

Feb 8, 10am-1pm, NW Davis Street near the Portland Chinatown Museum (127 NW Third Ave, Portland). Kick off the Lunar New Year with a mile-long parade in Portland coordinated by the Oregon Historical Society and numerous community partners. The Lunar New Year Dragon Dance Parade & Celebration starts at 10:00am near the Portland Chinatown Museum with lion dancers, drummers, performances, and a 150-foot dragon, followed by a parade (11:00am to 12:30pm) that marches under the China Gate and through downtown Portland along SW Third Avenue to the outdoor plaza at the Oregon Historical Society Museum (1200 SW Park Ave, Portland) for a joyous conclusion. Plucking of the greens occurs at select locations along the parade route. Members of the community who are interested in volunteering for the event should e-mail <info@portlandchinatown.org>. For info, call (503) 222-1741 or (503) 224-0008, or visit <www.ohs.org> or <www.portlandchinatownmuseum.org>.

TET in Oregon 2025

Feb 8, 10:30am-5pm, McDaniel High School (2735 NE 82nd Ave, Portland). Attend TET in Oregon, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year Festival. The celebration, presented by the Vietnamese Community of Oregon, features lucky red envelopes, a dragon dance, music performances, traditional dance, vendors, and much more. An evening program is also presented from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. For info, call (503) 349-9232, e-mail <thaotvnco@gmail.com>, or visit <www.facebook.com/vncousa>.

VCA Lunar New Year Gala

Feb 16, 5-7pm (light meal & activities), 7-9pm (performances), Skyview High School (1300 NW 139th St, Vancouver, Wash.). Enjoy food, performances, games for children, crafts, and more at the Vancouver Chinese Association's (VCA) Lunar New Year Gala. For info, or to purchase tickets (required), e-mail <vca_usa@yahoo.com>, or visit <https://vca-wa.org> or <www.facebook.com/vcausa>. Businesses selling tickets in person include Ocean King Market, Szechuan Brothers Chinese Restaurant, Makoto Japanese Buffet, and the Canton Chinese Buffet.

An online version of this Lunar New Year special issue is available at <www.asianreporter.com>

Have a safe and prosperous Year of the Snake!

January 29, 2025 to February 16, 2026

Year of the Snake forecasts

Continued from page 14

The Dog

Brave and devoted Dogs will be presented with many good opportunities in 2025, as long as they are imaginative and loyal. Achievements and praise will follow those who play ball fairly and are not bad-tempered. Keep control of your expenses and be sure to get plenty of rest and exercise so you can enjoy a busy Snake Year.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Dog**: Although learning might be rough this year, make an effort to obtain new skills.

■ **Water Dog**: Dig up and explore new experiences this Snake Year.

■ **Wood Dog**: Avoiding trivial situations could help in achieving a goal.

■ **Fire Dog**: Fire Dogs should heel occasionally and allow others a chance to lead.

■ **Earth Dog**: The talkative Earth Dog should bark enthusiastically at everyone in 2025.

◆

The Pig

A rocky road may be in store for an impatient and indulgent Pig, but one who is courteous, sensible, and honest should be able to navigate the year. Utilizing good communication skills and your outgoing personality will help overcome any barriers in your way. Enjoy mud baths when you have a chance, but don't over-indulge financially because saving for a rainy day is a good idea.

Element specific:

■ **Metal Pig**: Outgoing Metal Pigs may need to assist a friend seeking advice.

■ **Water Pig**: Put good ideas to work by collaborating with others.

■ **Wood Pig**: Focus on realistic goals this Snake Year.

■ **Fire Pig**: Zeroing in on important tasks will lead to individual satisfaction.

■ **Earth Pig**: Earth Pigs may be presented with a chance to travel in the future, so start saving funds now.

Illustrations by Jonathan Hill

We hope you enjoy Madame Mingmei's Year of the Snake forecasts.

The first prediction applies to each animal sign (Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig) for the new lunar year.

Each prediction is followed by an additional forecast specific to one's element (metal, water, wood, fire, earth).

To find out what sign and element apply to you, turn to page 12 and look up your date of birth.

Year of the Snake stamp added to USPS' third series

Continued from page 11

created symbolic objects of Lunar New Year celebrations — red lanterns (2008), lion head (2009), narcissus flowers (2010), kumquats (2011), dragon (2012), firecrackers (2013), drums (2014), Tray of Togetherness (2015), peonies (2016), red envelope (2017), lucky bamboo (2018), and pink peach blossoms (2019).

The first stamp, issued in honor of the Year of the Rat, was released in 2008. Each new stamp in the Celebrating Lunar New Year series featured small animal illustrations in a traditional paper-cutout style, by Lee, the artist who created the first stamp series that began in 1992, in the upper left corner. Mak designed the series with art director Ethel Kessler.

The third series began in 2020 and will conclude in 2031.

To learn more, or to purchase the new Year of the Snake stamp, call 1-800-STAMP24 (1-800-782-6724) or visit <www.usps.com/stamps>.