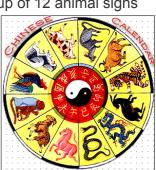
For those of us less familiar with the Chinese Zodiac, it is made up of 12 animal signs and 5 elements, comprising a 60 year cycle. This is the year of the Wood Ram - also known as the Sheep or Goat. Ancient lore says, Buddha invited all of the animals in the world to join him for the New Year celebrations, but only 12 animals bothered to turn up. As a great reward, Buddha named a year after each one of them and they run in the order that the animals arrived to celebrate with Buddha, starting with the Rat and ending with the last guest, the Pig.



feng shui

R E N T S

The 5 Elements are Water, Wood, Fire, Earth and Metal.

Although this year has Wood and Earth as it stem and branch (elements that are oppositional), because of their positioning we can look forward to more stability in the economy and government. There is also hope that the environment will be given greater consideration. As the Ram is a Good Samaritan, highly creative, and intelligent, this year should bring more peace to the world. In fact, the Chinese word for 'ram' has links to the word 'luck. So the very sound of 'ram' implies auspiciousness.



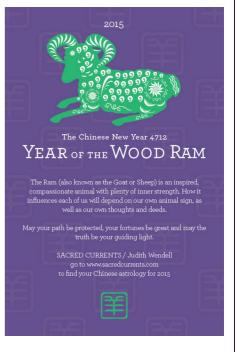
It is always fun to name a few famous Rams. These include Jane Austen, Anne Bancroft, George Burns, Catherine Deneuve, Robert De Niro, John Denver, George Harrison, Mick Jagger, Sir Laurence Olivier, John Wayne, Bruce Willis. Unfortunately President Obama is an Ox which is the sign most opposed to the Ram, so he will not have an easier time this year.

Prior to the Lunar New Year, it is a good idea for all of us to 'clear house' both physically and metaphorically. In other words clean up outstanding debts, issues and generally complete things before the lunar New Year. All signs will do well to perform the 'Golden Cicada Sheds Its Shell' ritual, along with 'Welcoming in the Wealth God' and 'Changing the Chi of the Environment'.

According to Flying Star Feng Shui, for every environment the North is where wealth (the 8 star) is residing in 2015. This area will be enhanced with activity, a water element or something moving like a kinetic sculpture. The Southwest, the West and Northeast are sources of negativity, so try to stay away from renovations in these sectors. In addition, a 'Salt Cure' will help to mitigate any ill effects from the 5 Yellow Star in the West, which can be the cause of instability and illness there.

Each zodiac animal has its own qualities that are consistent year to year, yet every sign will be influenced by the Ram's energy this year. Click here for some insights for each zodiac animal in 2015. Please note that fortunes can be mitigated or enhanced with Feng Shui, rituals, meditations and transcendental adjustments and that each person has their own karma to consider. A personal, in depth reading will reveal more specifics for each month. Remember that even the luckiest signs (the Rabbit, Horse, Pig and Tiger this year), have their cautions and the unluckiest (the Rat and Ox) have their bright spots.

A 3-dimensional Horse, Rabbit and Pig (the luck animals for the year depending on your year of birth see here) can be acquired through Sacred Currents.



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