

The Villa Celebrates 2010: The Year of the Tiger by Renee Shea

We're about to celebrate our third annual Chinese New Year here at The Villa. This year Chinese New Year begins on Valentine's Day and continues for two weeks. We will celebrate on Friday, February 26th with fun games and Chinese food.

So far we have celebrated the year of the rat and the year of the ox. This year we celebrate the year of the tiger. You are a tiger if you were born in 2010, 1998, 1986, 1974, 1962, 1950, 1938, 1926, 1914, or 1902.

Tigers are adventurous, sensitive, emotional, confident and willing to take risks. They dislike taking orders. They can see immediately when there is a problem, but they aren't so good at coming up with the solution. They like company when feeling sad and they are very warm, generous beings.

Although the Gregorian calendar says we are in the year 2010, the Chinese calendar says February 14th will move us into the year 4708. The date also marks what the Chinese call their spring festival. Apparently the month of February is warmer in Beijing than it is in Hazelwood.

Make sure you do a few things to make your year fortunate. As you celebrate Chinese New Year, eat noodles and try not to break any. This will ensure your longevity. Pay off your debts and wear red for good luck.

Above all, have fun. Come to the Villa celebration in the multipurpose room at 2:30 on the 26th. We'll have three games going on: Tiger Races, Tiger Pong, and Tiger Darts. You can win some fun little prizes. And of course we will have plenty of beverages, Chinese snacks, and camaraderie.

While this year's celebration is limited to our residents due to space constraints, if you have a special friend who is thinking about moving here, see me or Patty for a special invitation to our party.

Remember, if your friend moves in, you get \$1,000.00 off your next month's rent. I asked one tiger what he thinks about a thousand dollars and he told me "They're Grrrrreat!!!"

I wish you "Gung hay fat choy" in 2010 (or is that 4708?). That means "congratulations and be prosperous" in Cantonese. Happy New Year!

