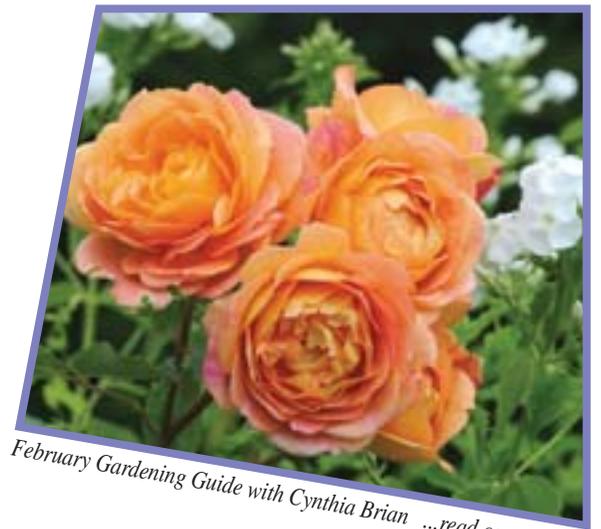


Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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February Gardening Guide with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D11

Feng Shui

Fairness and justice are highlights of 2018 Yang Earth Dog year

By Michele Duffy



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Gung Hay Fat Choy! Happy New Year!

The Chinese have a solar and lunar calendar (Lunarsolare) and as you may have realized and noted over the years, the New Year's celebrations of the western or Gregorian calendar are not the same as either of these. The Chinese Solar New Year for the Year of the Yang Earth Dog begins Feb. 4 and is the midway mark between the winter solstice and spring equinox. It's important to note that it is the Solar Chinese New Year date that is used to determine the corresponding Chinese zodiac animal birth sign for individuals. For example, if a person were born Jan. 31, 2018 he or she would be a Fire Rooster and under the preceding year of Yin Fire Rooster year of 2017 which ends Feb. 4, 2018. The Chinese Lunar New Year begins this year on Feb. 16 and is when massive global Chinese New Year's celebrations, fireworks, big parades, and the beginning of the weeklong observances and events begin.

Keep in mind that Chinese astrology is based on astronomy, philosophy, and traditional calendars and is the divination of the timing of the future. In particular, it is based on a 60-year cycle that has been documented since the time of the Shang Dynasty. This basic cycle has been constructed from two cycles: the 10 heavenly stems (the five elements

of water, wood, fire, earth and metal in their yin or female and yang or male forms) plus the 12 earthly branches, or the 12-year cycle of animals referred to as the Chinese zodiac (rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, snake, dragon, horse, ram, monkey, rooster, dog and pig). The Chinese animal zodiac also operates on a cycle of months (12 animals rule one each of the 12 months) or 'moons' and of hours of the day (12 animals with a two-hour period adds up to a 24-hour day).

The 2018 Earth Dog year will amplify all that is sincere, moral, loyal, intelligent, stable, practical, reliable, honest, grounded and a feeling for justice and the rules of fair play. Earth Dog is pragmatic, calm and serene and much gentler than his fellow Fire, Water, Wood or Metal Dogs so even though the pace of a male year can be hectic, the overall energy will be more stable, gentle, and less combative or warlike than other Dog years. Calm, clear and patient communication will be key to success this Earth Dog year.

The 2018 Earth Dog will ring in a welcomed grounding energetic favoring integrity, justice, tolerance and empathy, a more pronounced collective consciousness of fairness and justice, trustworthiness, rules of fair play, and making sure in the end, that everyone is treated fairly will be a large part of 2018 unfolding energetically. ... continued on page D4