



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR!

January 29 marks the beginning of the Lunar New Year, the most important day in China and one observed in Asian communities the world over. Festivities traditionally span 15 days and herald the beginning of spring. A fresh start is made: houses are cleaned, debts are paid, families honor their departed ancestors and rejoice in each other's company. Minds, bodies and spirits are renewed.

2024 was known as the Year of the Dragon; 2025 is the Year of the Snake. According to the University of Sydney, in Chinese culture the snake symbolizes "good luck, rebirth and regality" as well as "the pursuit of love and happiness" and "wealth and wisdom."

Several years before his death, Qing Dynasty poet and dramatist Kong Shangren (1648-1718) wrote:

《甲午元旦》

萧疏白髮不盈顛，守歲圍爐竟廢眠。
剪燭催乾消夜酒，傾囊分遍買春錢。
听燒爆竹童心在，看挾桃符老興偏。
鼓角梅花添一部，五更歡笑拜新年。

In English, the poem – titled "Lunar New Year of Jiawu (1714)" – reads:

Despite thinning white hair,

I stayed up for a night to feast on New Year's Eve.
The burning candle urges me to drink up;
I emptied my pocket, giving children coins for good luck.
Hearing the noise of firecrackers, I'm cheerful like a child;
Seeing new spring couplets hang, I sense closure of the old year.

Listening to the “Plum Blossom” tune one more time;
Soon, the day breaks and people greet one another with
laughter.

I wish all who celebrate the Lunar New Year love, laughter, and all good
things.

Sincerely,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

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