

Transcript of Speech
by
Dr. Hwa A. Lim (林華安博士)
Chairman, UNESCO CID SFS
At
“Love & Wish 2016”
February 6, 2016



Dr. Hwa A. Lim (林華安博士)

Honorable Mayor Alan Nagy, VIPs, Guests from the six cities of San Jose, Sunnyvale, Milpitas, Fremont, Newark, and Union City,

My name is Hwa Lim. It is my great honor to represent AHSA, Asian Hustle & Salsa Association, the organizer of “Love & Wish 2016”, to say a few words in front of all of you on this special occasion.

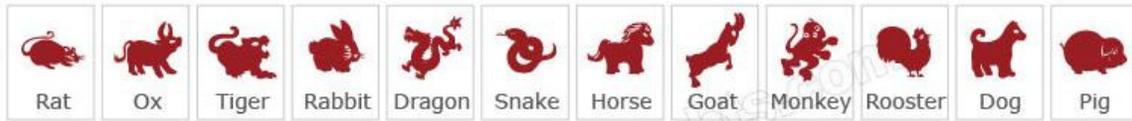
AHSA is a US federal and State of California registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. AHSA is also a member of United Nations’ Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization (UNESCO) CID.



United Nations’ Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) CID logo.

One of the mandates of AHSA is to promote cross-cultural understanding. In the past, AHSA has organized “Love & Wish” events on Christmas Day, Thanksgiving Day, New Year Day and other western festive days to bring awareness of these western festive days to the Chinese and Asian communities. This year, we thought we would do something a little differently.

The Chinese New Year is February 8, that is, this coming Monday. In Chinese tradition, each year is associated with one of the twelve Chinese zodiac animal signs and one the five elements: gold, water, wood, fire, or earth, making it a 60-year cycle.



The twelve Chinese zodiac animal signs.

In this scheme, the Chinese New Year in 2016 is the year of the fire monkey (火猴). The last time it was a fire monkey lunar year was 1956, or sixty years ago.



The monkey sign.

The monkey is a clever animal and is usually associated with a smart person. Fire brings a lot of energy and determination to the monkeys.

Full of strength and determination, Fire Monkeys are excellent at not only setting goals, but in meeting them as well. Others enjoy being in the company of Fire Monkeys. They strive to gain the upper hand in every situation. Being recognized for their achievements gives them greater job satisfaction than money. In business they are good negotiators, being very persuasive and meticulously organized.

Famous people born in the year of the monkey include:

Leonardo da Vinci, Charles Dickens, George Gordon Byron, Alexander Dumas, Yao Ming (姚明), Celine Dion, Tom Hanks, Will Smith, Halle Berry, Christina Aguilera, Diana Ross, Elizabeth Taylor, Michael Douglas, Owen Wilson, Daniel Craig, Mick Jagger, Julius Caesar, Bette Davis, Annie Oakley, Eleanor Roosevelt, Harry S Truman, Captain Cook, Cuba Gooding Jr., Patricia Arquette, Alyson Stoner, Christina Ricci, Mitchell Musso, Nick Jonas, Selena Gomez, Empress Wu Zetian (武则天) of China's Tang Dynasty (唐朝) (618 - 907).



Leonardo da Vinci



Elizabeth Taylor



Julius Caesar



Wu Zetian

Having said this, AHSA is planning a great Fire Monkey year ahead with new strengths and determinations. AHSA is commencing its Monkey Year by organizing this special event today, and tomorrow by being a proud participant at the Super Bowl 50 Halftime Show. Yes, you hear it right, the February 7 Super Bowl 50 at Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara!! This can be a lifetime dream for many people, but for some members of AHSA, after tomorrow, this will be a unique once-in-a-lifetime experience.



Super Bowl 50, and Super Bowl 50 Halftime Show logos.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_Hgh7sPDLM

The San Francisco Bay Area has a very diverse population of different ethnicities. AHSA hopes that by hosting events like “Love & Wish 2016” at grass-root levels, it will help bring together different people and promote cross-cultural understanding.



(left) “Gege” receive guests; (right) two of the participants of “Love & Wish 2016”.

For this special “Love & Wish 2016” event, this year AHSA is extremely fortunate to be able to expand its reach and be able to work with the City of Newark, Viola Blythe Center, Hometown Buffet, Aegis Gardens, Fremont Chinese Senior Club, various sponsors, and more than 100 friends from the Tri-city of Newark, Fremont, and Union City, and other cities including Milpitas, Sunnyvale and San Jose (and Cupertino and San Francisco).



Participants of “Love & Wish 2016”, in the Gathering Place of Hometown Buffet, one of the rooms.

Most importantly, we have Mayor Alan Nagy of the City of Newark, who is also co-founder of Viola Blythe Center, with us. Mayor’s priorities are protecting the public, growing the economy and improving the quality of life. A very popular mayor, he was voted into office with almost 70% of the votes.

Without further ado, here we are, Honorable Mayor Nagy....



Mayor Alan Nagi, giving out red envelopes to participants to bring them good luck in the new year.



(left) Libby Macris, Treasurer of Viola Blythe Community Center; (center) Mayor Alan Nagi, City of Newark; (right) Dr. Hwa A. Lim, Mayor Alan Nagi, and Michael Hannon, council member, City of Newark.



Performances in the evening: (left) "Gege" walks; (right) Golden monkey dance for monkey year.



(left) Golden monkey dance dancers wishing everyone "Happy Monkey Year"; (right) Polka dance.