



Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies

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MCGS Newsletter, January 2004



Make a resolution to have more diverse experiences this year.

A new year is always a great time to review the past and resolve to do better in the future. Many of us make a list of resolutions that we will follow for the new year. Some of these resolutions may be very individual-specific, while others are more general in nature. Why not try some of these suggestions from *101 Tools for Tolerance ...*



2004 is the year of the Monkey

The Chinese calendar follows the moon and divides the years into groups of twelve. Each year is named for an animal. People born in that year are believed to share different traits. The first of the twelve years is the Year of the Rat. This is followed by the Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig.

Because the Chinese calendar is based on the lunar year, the date of Chinese New Year changes each year. In 2004, the new year happens on January 22nd. On the Chinese calendar, 2004 is the Year of the Monkey.

春
Spring
Celebration
猴
Monkey

What Chinese Zodiac Animal are you?

Don't laugh.. I got this off a placemat at a Chinese restaurant.

Rat (1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996)

Black History Month Events*

Women's History Month Events*

Resource Lists

Useful Links

Liberal Arts

Archive

*Adobe Acrobat Files



- Attend a play, listen to music or go to a dance performance by artists whose race or ethnicity is different from your own.
- Research your family history. Share information about your heritage in talks with others.
- Read a book or watch a movie about another culture.
- Invite someone of a different background to join your family for a meal or holiday.
- Bookmark equity and diversity web sites on your home computer.
- Read books with multicultural and tolerance themes to your children.
- Hold a "diversity potluck" lunch. Invite co-workers to bring dishes that reflect their cultural heritage.
- Vary your lunch partners. Seek out co-workers of different backgrounds, from different departments, and at different levels in the company.
- Start a monthly "diversity roundtable" to discuss critical issues facing your community. establish an equity forum.
- Establish an ecumenical alliance. bring people of diverse faiths together for retreats, workshops or potluck dinners. Be welcoming to agnostics and atheists, too.
- Start a "language bank" of volunteer interpreters for all languages used in your community.
- Conduct a "diaper equity" survey of local establishments. Commend managers who provide changing tables in men's as well as women's restrooms.

For more information on Tools for Tolerance, visit Tolerance.org at www.tolerance.org.

You are imaginative, charming and truly generous to the person you love. However, you have a tendency to be quick-tempered and overly critical. You are also inclined to be somewhat of an opportunist. Born under this sign, you should be happy in sales or as a writer, critic, or publicist.

Ox (1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997)

A born leader, you inspire confidence from all around you. You are conservative, methodical and good with your hands. Guard against being chauvinistic and always demanding your own way. The Ox would be successful as a skilled surgeon, general, or hairdresser.

Tiger (1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998)

You are sensitive, emotional and capable of great love. However, you have a tendency to get carried away and be stubborn about what you think is right; often seen as a "Hothead" or rebel. Your sign shows you would be excellent as a boss, an explorer, a race car driver, or a matador.

Rabbit (1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999)

You are the kind of person that people like to be around- affectionate, obliging, always pleasant. You have a tendency, though, to get too sentimental and seem superficial. Being cautious and conservative, you are successful in business but would also make a good lawyer, diplomat, or actor.

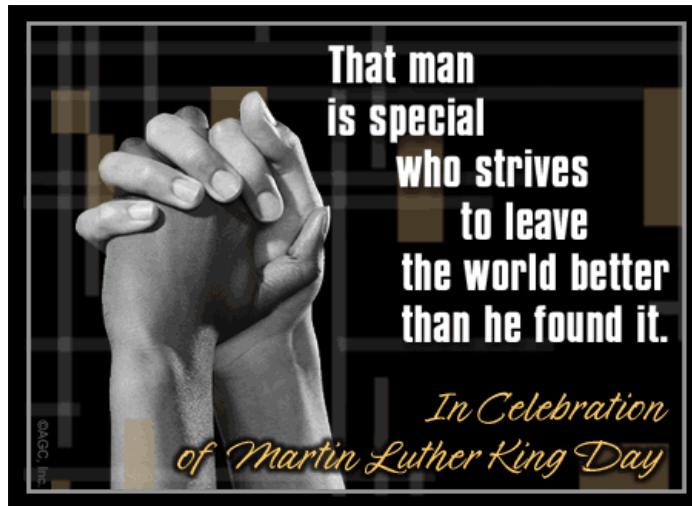
Dragon (1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000)

Full of vitality and enthusiasm, the Dragon is a popular individual even with the reputation of being foolhardy and a "big mouth" at times. You are intelligent, gifted and a perfectionist but these qualities make you unduly demanding on others. You would be well-suited to be an artist, priest, or politician.

Snake (1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001)

Rich in wisdom and charm, you are romantic and deep thinking and your intuition guides you strongly. Avoid procrastination and your stingy attitude towards money. Keep your sense of humor about life. The Snake would be most content as a teacher, philosopher, writer, psychiatrist and fortune teller.

Horse (1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002)



Enjoy these Multicultural Choices for National Book Week (January 11 -17)



Sponsored by the national Book Foundation to promote the reading of books, National Book Week is celebrated on the third week of January. This year, why not choose from a diverse selection picked by the staff of the Center for the Multicultural and Gender Studies?

Check out these titles:

Your capacity for hard work is amazing. You are your own person-very independent. While intelligent and friendly, you have a strong streak of selfishness and sharp cunning and should guard against being egotistical. Your sign suggests success as an adventurer, scientist, poet, or politician.

Sheep (1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003)
Except for the knack of always getting off on the wrong foot with people, the Sheep can be charming company. You are elegant and artistic but the first to complain about things. Put aside your pessimism and worry and try to be less dependent on material comforts. You would be best as an actor, gardener, or beachcomber.

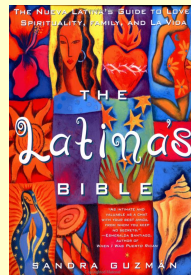
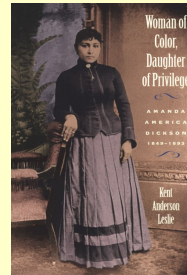


Monkey (1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004)
You are very intelligent and have a very clever wit. Because of your extraordinary nature and magnetic personality you are always well-liked. The Monkey, however, must guard against being an opportunist and distrustful of other people. Your sign promises success in any field you try.

Rooster (1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005)
The Rooster is a hard worker; shrewd and definite in decision making often speaking his mind. Because of this you tend to seem boastful to others. You are a dreamer, flashy dresser and extravagant to an extreme. Born under this sign you should be happy as a restaurant owner, publicist, soldier, or world traveler.

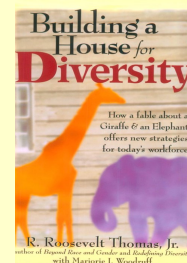
Dog (1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006)

Woman of Color, Daughter of Privilege: Amanda America Dickson, by Kent Anderson Leslie . *The story of an elite woman of color in 19th-century Georgia. Dickson, whose mother was a slave on her father's plantation, was raised in her father's household. She achieved independent social status when her father's death made her the largest property owner in the county, but not without a legal battle. Her story reveals racial ambiguities which existed under slavery and emancipation.*



The Latina's Bible: the Nueva Latina's Guide to Love, Spirituality, Family and La Vida, by Sandra Guzman. *The book focuses on familial and especially romantic relationships, with a spattering of Spanglish throughout the guidance through dating, marriage, health, careers and spirituality. In all, an excellent book with a culturally aware feminist attitude.*

Building a House for Diversity: How a Fable About a Giraffe and an Elephant Offers New Strategies for Today's Workforce, by R. Roosevelt Thomas. *Building a House for Diversity begins with a short fable about how the friendship between the giraffe and the elephant is threatened when the broad, bulk elephant cannot enter the giraffe's tall, skinny house. Using the story as a diving board, the author then delves into the difficult issues inherent in diversity, showing how managing diversity can be seen as a set of skills that anyone can learn and use.*



The Dog will never let you down. Born under this sign you are honest and faithful to those you love. You are plagued by constant worry, a sharp tongue and a tendency to be a fault finder. You would make an excellent businessman, activist, teacher or secret agent.

Boar (1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007)
You are a splendid companion -- an intellectual with a very strong need to set difficult goals and carry them out. You are sincere, tolerant and honest but by expecting the same from others you are incredibly naive. Your quest for material goods could be your downfall. The Pig would be best in the arts as an entertainer, or possibly a lawyer.

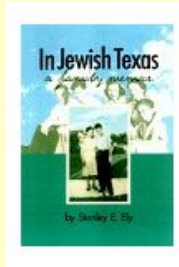


MCGS Book and Film Discussion Series focuses on *M. Butterfly* January 27.

On January 27th, we will be discussing *M. Butterfly* in our "brown bag luncheon" series. Leading our discussion this month is Assistant Professor of English, Cyrus Cassells, friend of David Henry Hwang.

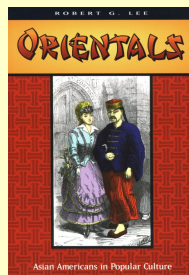
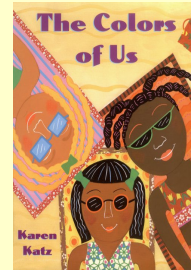
M. Butterfly is meant to be a deconstruction of the "classic" story of Western-man-meets-Asian-woman immortalized in the Italian opera, *Madanza Butterfly* (*Madam Butterfly*), and the American musical, *Miss Saigon*. *M. Butterfly* is a biting social critique of the inherent racial, cultural, and sexual dynamics at play in the West's view of the East. The play is truly interesting in the way in which it deconstructs the West's imperialistic attitude toward the East and its women. The power in this relationship between an French diplomat and the Chinese opera singer seems to be dominated by the Western man. However, it soon becomes clear that the real power in lies in the hands of Song, who is actually a Chinese spy.

Join us at noon in Flowers Hall 336. We will be discussing both the book and the film by the same name. Copies of the book and film are available at Hastings, books are available at Hastings, Half-Price



In Jewish Texas: a Family Memoir, by Stanley E. Ely. *Stanley Ely says that when the fiftieth or so person confronted him with a skeptical, "You mean you're Jewish, and you're from Texas?" he decided to do more than smile and say, "Yes." The result is this funny, caustic and nostalgic tale in the tradition of popular regional and ethnically focused memoirs.*

The Colors of Us, by Karen Katz. *Lena learns during a painting lesson that to get the color brown, she will have to "mix red, yellow, black, and white paints." They go for a walk to observe the many shades of brown. Lena realizes that every shade is beautiful, then mixes her paints accordingly for portraits of her friends "The colors of us!" Bold illustrations celebrate diversity with a child's open-hearted sensibility and a mother's love.*



Orientals: Asian Americans in Popular Culture, by Robert G. Lee. *Lee identifies six representations of Asian Americans--the pollutant, the coolie worker, the deviant, the yellow peril, the model minority, and the gook--and notes how, when, and why they emerged. Lee analyses a broad range of artifacts of American pop culture--from silent films to blockbuster movies, popular magazines to pulp fiction, and stage dramas to 19th-century songs--to reveal the history of these definitions.*

Books, Amazon, Alkek Library and the Multicultural and Gender Studies Resource Center. See you there!

Celebrate your harvest

Lohri: celebrating fertility and the joy of life

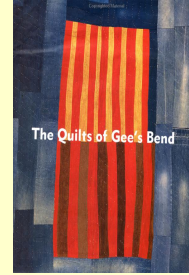


The festival Lohri signifies the harvesting of the Rabi crops. The people of Northern India, especially Punjab and Haryana celebrate Lohri, to mark the end of winter. Harvested fields and front yards are lit up with flames of bonfires, around which people gather to meet friends and relatives and sing folk songs. Children go from house to house singing and collecting money and sweets, which they throw into the bonfires.

For Punjabis, this is more than just a festival; it is also an example of their love for celebrations. Lohri celebrates fertility and the joy of life. People gather around bonfires, throw sweets, puffed rice and popcorn into the flames, sing popular and folk songs and exchange greetings.

The festival assumes greater significance if there has been a happy event in the family during the year gone by, like the birth of a male child or a marriage. The family then plays host to relatives and friends wherein the eats take a back seat and merry-making takes over. The celebration with the traditional bhangra dance along with the dhol, gidda and light-hearted flirtation mark this festival.

The Quilts of Gees Bend, by John Beardsley. *Gee's Bend, Alabama, is a hamlet of 750 residents, most of whom are the descendants of slaves from the former Pettway plantation, who during the New Deal purchased farms from the government. For much of the last century, the women of Gee's Bend have produced some of the most striking examples of American vernacular art, sharing them among the community and storing them within their homes.*



Want more information on books relating to multicultural and gender issues? Drop by the Multicultural and Gender Studies Resource Center, Flowers Hall room 336. We have a large selection of books available for research or just for reading. Need a little more guidance? Not a problem. Call for an appointment, and we'll be happy to help you with your research or curriculum transformation needs.



2004 is the International Year of Rice

Devoting a year to a commodity is an unprecedented step in United Nations history. Compelling factors lie under this decision: the spectre of increased hunger, malnutrition, poverty and conflict in the coming decades. In 2002, these factors moved the government of the Philippines, along with 43 other countries, to formally request that the UN General Assembly declare 2004 the International Year of Rice. But the idea had been circulating among major agricultural organizations since 1999 due to growing concern that fundamental issues needed to be tackled on a global level.

For more information on the International Year of Rice, check out the UN webpage on the International Year of Rice

Holidays in January include:

- January 1 - Emancipation Day (African-American)
- January 5 - Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday (Sikh)
- January 6 - Epiphany (Christian)
- January 13 - Lohri (Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh)
- January 18 - World Religion Day (Bahai)
- January 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (US)
- January 22 - Chinese New Year
- January 22 - Tet Nguyen Dan (Vietnamese)

**[Printable Calendar of MCGS & Related
Texas State University-San Marcos Events](#)**

by clicking [here](#)



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