

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Year of the Dragon

BY JER

On February 10th this year, many cultures around the world will celebrate the Lunar New Year. Individuals in China, South Korea, Vietnam, and several other countries (including the United States) will come together with their families to observe this wonderful holiday. They will eat symbolic dishes—pork dumplings, noodles, and whole fish to name a few—and many will exchange red envelopes containing money. There will also be beautiful decorations. I happen to love the ones featuring the symbol fu (福), which represents “fortune” or “good luck.”

I have celebrated the Lunar New Year since I was a small child. My loving parents, who are not from a culture that celebrates this holiday, often speak of my fascination with Chinese Spirituality and culture, a passionate interest that mysteriously began when I was four or five. Each Lunar New Year, my parents and I enjoy some of the aforementioned lucky dishes, exchange gifts, read our horoscopes, and talk about our wishes.

I have also been blessed to grow up knowing older Taiwanese and Chinese individuals who have supported me in my journey with Chinese Spirituality and culture. They have loved my love for their cultures. Throughout my life, I have enjoyed Lunar New Year dinners with family and close friends, and my heart is always warmed by the memories of us reflecting on the past years and dreaming of the coming ones. Overall, I am not sure that I would be the poet or chaplain I am without the influence of Buddhism, Taoism, and even a bit of Chinese Folk Religion.

This year, the Spiritual Life Center will once again host a Lunar New Year giveaway outside the cafeteria on Friday,

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For more information about the Spiritual Life Center, including info on our student groups, go to our webpage - link in the email signature. You can also visit our Linkt.ree (Link is in email).



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Year of the Dragon (cont'd.)

February 9th, from noon until 1:00 pm. We will have special candies, bracelets, and even red tassels for students, faculty, and staff to enjoy. I hope that you can stop by and say hello. I wish you a prosperous, healthy, and exciting Year of the Dragon.

Upcoming Interfaith Holidays

February 8
Laylat Al-Isra'wa al-Mi'raj (Islam)

February 10
Lunar New Year
(Confucianism/Daoism/Buddhism)

February 14
Vasant Panchami / Saraswati Puja
(Hinduism)

February 14
Ash Wednesday (Christian)

February 14-28
Lent (Christian)

Dates to Remember

Weekly on Sundays in Snidow Chapel:

- 11 a.m. Worship with Church of the Covenant
- 4:30 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

Friday, February 9
Noon - 1 p.m. in Drysdale
LUNAR NEW YEAR TABLING

Wednesday, February 14
7-9 a.m. in Memorial Ballroom,
Hall Campus Center
SARASWATI POOJA

February is **Black History Month**

- Feb. 7 - Alpha Psi Lambda Motivational Speaker, Claudio Otero
 - Feb. 14 - GSA / W2W / M2M Black Round Table
- (Both at 6 p.m. in the Ballroom)

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 14
ASHES ON THE GO

- 2 locations 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.
- Drysdale Student Center, 3rd floor
 - Portico of Snidow Chapel

CATHOLIC PRAYER SERVICE WITH
DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES
3 p.m. at Snidow Chapel

The Chaplain's Corner is published by the Spiritual Life Center (SLC) at the University of Lynchburg. We share campus concerns (only with permission), updates, spiritual life events, and activities. Current and previous issues are on the SLC page of the University website - go to Link in signature (www.lynchburg.edu/spiritual-life) and click on "Newsletter."