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MY TURN

■ **Dmae Roberts**



Rooster wishes

The past year was a bad one for me, but I'm a Fire Rooster and this is my year. I hope the Rooster Year is a good one for everyone else, too. The lucky numbers are 5, 7, and 8 — which, interestingly enough, I've always considered lucky, especially 5 — my favorite number. I'm told to avoid 1, 3, and 9; I've never liked those much, either.

In the Year of the Rooster, my hopes are simple. I don't want to lose the health insurance I obtained through the Affordable Care Act. I hope my family and loved ones maintain good health. I hope people living in the streets and those struggling to get by on a low income will be better cared for and the class divide doesn't increase. And as an artist, as always, I hope people will attend my three theater events scheduled in 2017.

Roosters are confident, observant, hardworking, resourceful, courageous, and talented. I happen to know a great many people who exemplify these words. I asked a few of them via Facebook about their wishes and dreams for the Year of the Rooster.

Simon Tam, the bassist and founder of The Slants music group, and Kat Templeton, a visual artist in Vancouver, Washington, are also Roosters who are positive about their Rooster Year.

Tam has been fighting for the right to trademark the band's name for years. He hopes it will be "a year of justice" for the group and mark the end of the legal case. A Supreme Court oral hearing is scheduled on January 18. He also believes 2017 will mark a drastic contrast in our government. "No matter what happens," he says, "I hope our communities will help inspire a path forward for all Americans."

Templeton hopes people will "courageously aspire to be passionate and persevere to inspire others" while remaining imaginative and creative and championing social change. She says, "Roosters like myself challenge and question, analyze and progress forward with strong will and determination, but we do it in style!"

Phil Duong, a Portland friend since the '90s, bids farewell to the Year of the Monkey, a year that highlighted the Monkey's "impetuous temper, its irritability." He offers this wish for the new Lunar Year: "Bring the promise of rebirth, transformation, justice — a year of resting, waiting, watching, and of acting when able and when the time is right."

Kathy Delumpa Allegri, a visual artist in Portland, wrote, "The Rooster crows to awaken us from

lethargy." Her hopes for others in 2017, the year of fire and energy: "Learn all you can, be strong and confident, and strut your brilliant colors!" Allegri also created the beautiful painting for this column.

Ronni Lacroute, a teacher and arts enthusiast in McMinnville, Oregon, remains optimistic about the Fire Rooster, saying, "this feisty Rooster is trustworthy, with a strong sense of timekeeping and responsibility at work — he will get the job done!"

A close friend since the '80s, radio producer Catherine Sifter, lives in Grass Valley, California. She recently changed her life — in her 60th year — and she's "firing up the determination to act when the timing is right and conserve energy for when it's most needed." She studied tai chi and qi gong for 15 years. For 2017, she has made a life change to teach so she can commit to "sharing these arts for the benefit and wellbeing of my students, my community, and beyond."

Porsche Ing, a writer and artist in Portland, responded the most enthusiastically, saying she's been waiting for the Year of the Rooster "forever!" She believes it's a time of rebirth "for our hopes, dreams, and aspirations to all come true" and, on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the best, she says this year "marks a '1' year of love, peace, and harmony," which is "refreshing from our '9' year last year of endings and chaos." Ing bought her sisters and mother a "good luck rooster amulet" and seven Chinese calendars from Chinatown for family and friends. She then offered the following poem. I could not agree more with her joyful rooster wish.

*May the Phoenix Rooster bestow upon our world
 New beginnings, like the sunrise brings
 the promise of morning each day ...
 As the Rooster cries out — may we too awaken
 to our fierce purpose and dynamic destiny.
 May magic find us living our dreams,
 not just for tomorrow — but forever
 in joy, peace, and harmony — with a
 flock of true friends and loving family
 to encourage and surround us.*

*May our heart's wishes take flight upon
 the wings of Infinite fortune,
 prosperity, and creativity ...
 And may the most MAGICAL
 Immortal rebirth light a fire
 under, around, and within our
 world to show us the way of
 Endless Love ...*



Image courtesy of artist Kathy Delumpa Allegri.