

Dec. 19, 2007

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## **New Stamp Series Will Observe Chinese New Year** *Year of the Rat Stamp Kicks Off Series That Runs Through 2019*

- What:** In observance of the Chinese New Year, the U.S. Postal Service will debut a new stamp series for the 12 different animals in the Chinese calendar. The series will continue through 2019. The first stamp in the series is for the Year of the Rat, which begins Feb. 7, 2008 and ends Jan. 25, 2009.
- Who:** Katherine Tobin, Member, U. S. Postal Service Board of Governors  
Claudine Cheng, Former President, Organization of Chinese Americans, Inc.  
Kam Mak, Stamp Designer  
Leung's White Crane Kung Fu Association, White Crane Lion Dance
- When:** 11 a.m. PT  
Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008
- Where:** Nob Hill Masonic Center  
1111 California St.  
San Francisco, CA 94108
- Background:** According to legend, the animals raced across a river to determine their order in the cycle. The rat crossed by riding on the back of the ox, jumping ahead at the last minute to win the race.

People born in the year of a particular animal are said to share characteristics with that animal. Those born during the Year of the Rat are said to be adaptable, clever, ambitious and industrious. Persons born within the following date ranges can be said to have been born in the "Year of the Rat":

February 18, 1912 – February 5, 1913  
February 5, 1924 – January 24, 1925  
January 24, 1936 – February 10, 1937  
February 10, 1948 – January 28, 1949  
January 28, 1960 – February 14, 1961  
February 15, 1972 – February 2, 1973  
February 2, 1984 – February 19, 1985  
February 19, 1996 – February 6, 1997

Famous Rats include Antonio Banderas, Claude Monet, David Duchovny, George Washington, Hugh Grant, Prince Charles, Samuel L. Jackson and Sean Penn.

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