

THE LIU INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL

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PRESS RELEASE

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Subj: CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR 2006, YEAR OF THE FIRE DOG, WITH LIU INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

On January 28, 2006 the Liu Institute International is hosting a Chinese New Year celebration to welcome in the Chinese year of the Fire Dog. People born in the Year of the Dog possess the best traits of human nature. They have a deep sense of loyalty, are honest, and inspire other people's confidence because they know how to keep secrets. Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. The 15th day of the new year is called the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated at night with lantern displays and children carrying lanterns in a parade.

The Chinese New Year, which is based on the lunar calendar, is traditionally celebrated with loud fire works and dragon festooned parades. In China, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are celebrated as a family affair, a time of reunion and thanksgiving. The celebration was traditionally highlighted with a religious ceremony given in honor of Heaven and Earth. Paying respect to the ancestors is the most vital of all the rituals. Departed relatives are remembered with great respect because they were responsible for laying the foundations for the fortune and glory of the family.

The presence of the ancestors is acknowledged on New Year's Eve with a dinner arranged for them at the family banquet table. The spirits of the ancestors, together with the living, celebrate the onset of the New Year as one great community. The communal feast called "surrounding the stove" or weilu. It symbolizes family unity and honors the past and present generations. The festivities at the Liu Institute Jefferson Hwy will be an entertaining mix of traditional foods, dragon dances and Chinese Martial Arts demonstrations. The host of the festivities, Shawn Liu is a 31st generation disciple of the world renowned Shaolin Temple in the Henan Province of China, the oldest martial arts training center in the world. He began his training at age three and today passes his knowledge to his students right here in New Orleans.

The festivities will begin at 7 PM on Friday January 27th at the Liu Institute in New Orleans Tickets are \$3.00 donations in advance or \$5.00 at the door to benefit the students in New Orleans affected by Katrina. For more information call 835-1877.

