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**Celebrating January**

**New Years Day**

*January 1*

**Entertainer Rodgers  
Polkas**

**2:00 PM, 394 Building**

*January 4*

**Entertainer Johnny Len**

**2:00 PM, 1350 Building**

*January 9*

**Martin Luther King Jr.**

**Day**

*January 16*

**Entertainer Jacks**

**Keyboard**

**2:00 PM, 400 Building**

*January 16*

**Chinese New Year**

*January 28*

**An Explosive New Year**

The new year is celebrated all around the world, and its arrival is most often heralded with fireworks. Why are fireworks associated with ringing in the new year all over the globe? It turns out they are part of a larger story and much more than just a loud and raucous display of joy and revelry. This story begins with their invention in China.

China is very proud of its Four Great Inventions: the compass, papermaking, printing, and gunpowder. Like so many important inventions, gunpowder was discovered by accident. In the ninth century, Chinese alchemists searching for the elixir of immortality instead discovered the formula for gunpowder. It was, of course, eventually adapted for use in warfare, but other uses were discovered more immediately, such as in the development of flares and eventually fireworks.

While the emperor may have been treated to elaborate and spectacular fireworks shows, fireworks were not all fun and games. They served another important purpose: when fireworks exploded at the beginning of each new year, they were believed to frighten away evil spirits, banish bad luck, and bring good fortune. From these superstitious beginnings, fireworks have become a mainstay of new year traditions around the world.

There may be no better time to watch a fireworks display than on the Chinese New Year, which falls on January 28. Beijing and Hong Kong often vie for the most amazing displays, which may mean—if ancient superstitions are true—that these two cities will enjoy the greatest luck. In the Chinese zodiac, 2017 is the Year of the Rooster, an animal that, thanks to its relentless crowing, is considered adept at shooing away evil spirits. It is also the year of Fire, so be on the lookout for greater, more elaborate, and more powerful fireworks displays.

## Chatty Catty

Wagging tails. Shameful whimpers. Lolling tongues. Dogs are easy to read. Cats, on the other hand, are experts at acting uninterested and often appear aloof and unready to communicate.

So what are we supposed to do on January 22, Answer Your Cat's Questions Day, if we have no idea how to communicate with our feline companions? Lucky for us, the cat experts at *Modern Cat* magazine have deciphered cat sounds and what they communicate.

Cats may be second only to birds in terms of the range of noises they can make. And each noise is deliberate, communicating what they want and how they feel. Meows, considered the most cat-like of cat sounds, are actually used by cats mainly to communicate with humans. Newborn kittens meow for their mother, but adult cats quickly grow out of it, until they are taken in by a caring family. Their meows signify that they think of us as caregivers, just like their mommy cats. Meowing means they want to be fed or kept company or, in older cats, that they are even feeling ill. Regardless, a meow means "Take care of me." While purring most often is the way a cat vocalizes contentment, purring does not always equal happiness. Some purrs are worry-purrs, just like when humans whistle, hum, or talk nervously to themselves. Chirps and trills are sounds of demand. Mother cats use such sounds to order their kittens. Your cat making these noises is making demands such as "Pay attention!" or "Follow me!"

Cats don't just talk with their voices. Cats also use facial expressions to communicate. Veterinarian Gary Weitzman, author of *How to Speak Cat*, explains that a slow blink is an expression of acceptance, calm, and comfortability, used between cats and also with humans. Maybe you should try a slow blink the next time you're with your cat and speak a language they understand.



## January Birthdays

In astrology, those born between January 1st and 19th are Capricorn's Goats. Capricorns are independent, detail-oriented, patient, and self-sufficient. These qualities help the sure-footed goats achieve stability and security. Those born between January 20th and 31st are Water Bearers of Aquarius. Aquarians may be shy and quiet, but they are energetic, unique, and independent visionaries. They are often unemotional, intellectual, and will pursue wisdom to the ends of the earth.

Diane Keaton (actress) – January 5, 1946  
Elvis Presley (musician) – January 8, 1935  
George Foreman (boxer) – January 10, 1949  
Faye Dunaway (actress) – January 14, 1941  
Al Capone (gangster) – January 17, 1899  
Edgar Allan Poe (writer) – January 19, 1809  
Ernest Borgnine (actor) – January 24, 1917  
Oprah Winfrey (mogul) – January 29, 1954

### Resident Birthdays

Joyce J – January 9  
Greg – January 18  
Mina – January 22

## From the Activity Directors Desk

Happy New Year! I would like to introduce myself, my name is Kassie and I will be the new Activity Director.

This year we plan to continue with all our favorites such as fishing and Brown County Fair outings. Our popular entertainment has been setting dates also to play for us throughout the year. We also can't forget our Holiday dinners and summer picnic.

If you haven't made your New Year's resolution yet you may want to think about volunteering your time with us. There are many opportunities such as helping with manicure, or crafts or you may have an idea of your own. If you are interested please contact Kassie at [kassie@angelstouchcbrf.com](mailto:kassie@angelstouchcbrf.com) or by phone at 920-412-6224. I look forward to a year full of fun activities!