

Peace Talk!

Chinese New Year January 22-Feb. 5, 2023

This celebration is to mark the transition between zodiac signs: 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit and 2022 was the Year of the Tiger. The new year festivities culminate with the Lantern Festival.

1. Look for 'May Peace Prevail on Earth' written in the Chinese Language on Gwynedd's Peace Pole! The characters are quite stunning.

2. A Story from the Year of the Rabbit: The Rabbit is the fourth of all zodiac animals. Characteristics of people born in the year of the rabbit include being earnest and fair. In China, legend has it the Rabbit was once proud—arrogant even—of its speed. He was neighbors with Ox and always made fun of how slow Ox was. One day, the Jade Emperor said the zodiac order would be decided by the order in which the animals arrived at his party. Rabbit set off at daybreak. But when he got there, no other animals were in sight. Thinking that he would obviously be first, he went off to the side and napped. However, when he woke up, three other animals had already arrived. One of them was the Ox he had always looked down upon.

How does this story resemble The Tortoise and the Hare? In what ways are the two stories different? What lesson does it teach us?

The lesson is universal. The Tortoise and the Hare shares a similar message of come-uppance. So does the Brer Rabbit & Terrapin story of the southern United States as told by enslaved people, and the Anansi & Tiger story from Jamaica. Different cultures all over the world share common themes that teach us important lessons.

3. Coloring Activity (below)

May Peace Prevail on Earth (activities related to Gwynedd Friends' Peace Pole)

Resource: <https://chinesenewyear.net/>