

## feb2020EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria  
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### **The Year of the Yang Metal Rat: Get Ready for a Creative, Prosperous Year**

Last year's Year of the Pig brought mostly a softer, calmer, more stabilizing influence. It allowed us to slow down, and seek out the things we wanted to put effort in, yet not fully complete. Then BAM, this year comes the yang energy of the Metal Rat – a year which will lend to accomplishing tasks, making choices and eliminating unproductive involvements. The Year of the Metal Rat 2020 will be a year of new beginnings, offering new opportunities for finding true love and earning more money. 2020 is going to be successful! It will be a year of getting things done!

Following the Chinese calendar, which rotates in 60-year cycles based on 12 animals and five element years, 2020 is the Year of the Yang Metal Rat. The Lunar New Year starts on Saturday, January 25th and ends on February 11th, 2021. The Rat is the first sign from the 12 animals cycle of the Chinese Astrology, and for this reason, 2020 is considered a year of new beginnings and renewals.

The Year of the Rat is going to bring us creative energy, an energy which can manifest by fulfilling plenty of things you wish in your life. This is going to be a strong, prosperous, and lucky year for almost all Chinese zodiac signs. Everyone will show determination regarding their goals, aspirations, and even their hobbies. This is a great year for founding and evolving. Those who plan to buy real estate, to start a business or to invest money in a long-term project have great chances of being satisfied in the future.

The people born under this sign in the years 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020 are often optimistic, energetic and likeable by all. They are known to be quick witted, resourceful, versatile, kind and financially very frugal. Men born in the year of the Rat are clever and adapt quickly to new environments. Women under this sign are more traditional, like keeping things organized and place great value on family. Predictions for the lunar New Year are not one size fits all. Each of the 12 lunar signs may be affected differently in this year of the Rat, although this will be a strong, prosperous year for almost all signs.

Here are some ways other signs are affected in 2020:

**Rat** – A year of change in career, relationships and family life; best to surround yourself with positive people.

**Tiger** – A great year of travel and movement.

**Dragon** – There will be many opportunities from career to relationships. Time to keep focused.

**Ox** – A good year for luck in wealth. You will be relaxed and feel good about yourself and this will have happy repercussions in your love life.

**Snake** – You will have a guiding and protective presence this year, and will benefit from good help especially in career. When in trouble you will find yourself in good company who will help you out.

**Horse** – A successful year of possible changes in career, travel and relationships.

**Goat/Sheep** – Some changes in career bringing growth. Be cautious when making big decisions.

**Monkey** – A great year filled with union, love and joyful events.

**Rooster** – An unstable year in career and relationships leading to change.

**Dog** – A great year offering many opportunities for travel, both in work and leisure.

**Pig** – A smoother year with more career opportunities.

**Rabbit** – A year attracting an abundance of money, prosperity, luck and wealth; time to focus and rebalance body and mind.

Note that if you're a sign with a possibly challenging year, those challenges don't have to define you. Be aware, cautious and don't set yourself up.

Other predictions for the Year of the Rat:

#### Love, Relationships and Family:

This will be a more peaceful year for love. Your love life enters a more harmonious path with good communication to help maintain it.

#### Society and Politics:

This year looks to be incredibly consequential. You can call it a "rat race." There will be monumental efforts to gain global stability while strong pockets of undercurrents will attempt to cause the mountain to fall. We could see of a cooling down of international conflicts, and also that more females will come to political power.

Career: This will be a great year for career advancement. Actions initiated this year are driven by success. Follow your goals with confidence and determination.

#### Health:

All the 12 signs of the zodiac will enjoy good health apart from some bouts of exhaustion trying to get everything done. Toward the second part of the year you should experience more energy with mental condition getting better and better. Exercise is still the best medicine for good health.

#### Preparing for the Year of the Metal Rat

- 1) To prepare yourself and your home for the year of the Metal Rat, begin by tidying up your home and office. Clean your entry to welcome all the good luck that will come into your home and place of business; make this area clean, well lit, and inviting.
- 2) Add beautiful flowers to welcome the New Year! It's fortunate to add plants, flowers, and healthy bamboo to your home and workplace to increase abundance.
- 3) Take time to meditate and do a good deed daily.
- 4) This is a perfect time for Feng Shui to help you imbue the productive active energy of the rat. By enhancing the Metal areas of your home using the Bagua with the following sample enhancements, you will experience feelings of support in your forward movements and decision making.

## The Bagua

The Feng Shui Bagua (Ba-gua) Map, is represented as a grid of nine sectors. The Bagua comes from the Chinese philosophy, "The I Ching," and literally means "eight trigrams", with the center being for centering and grounding.

WEALTH AND PROSPERITY	FAME AND REPUTATION	LOVE AND RELATIONSHIP
HEALTH, FAMILY AND FRIENDS	CENTER AND GROUNDING	CHILDREN AND CREATIVITY
KNOWLEDGE AND SELF- CULTIVATION	CAREER	HELPFUL PEOPLE AND TRAVEL
↑	↑	↑

**ENTRANCE QUADRANT**

### Helpful People and Travel Area (Metal Element)

- \* Art and items in white and grey colors depicting spiritual guides, mentors, travel locations
- \* Circular, arch shapes
- \* Items made of any kind of metal

### Children and Creativity Area (Metal Element)

- \* Items in the colors white and pastels
- \* Art that depicts whimsy, playfulness, creativity or children
- \* Circular, arch shapes

Since the Metal Rat will affect career it is recommended that this area of your home also be enhanced during this year.

### Career Area (Water Element) \*Note that the Metal element holds Water

- \* Items in the color black or very dark blue and shiny
- \* Art that depicts moving water, also reflective items such as glass, crystal and mirrors
- \* Asymmetrical shapes

When using the Bagua map, be sure that all areas are clean with no clutter. Keep a clear path to your aspirations. Make sure that the first thing seen in each room is beautiful and inspiring. You do not want to see a pile of paperwork or any type of mess.

### **Affirmations:**

Remember that in Feng Shui, intent plays a significant role in enhancing any area of your home or business. That's why all enhancements need to be made with intentionality; written or stated affirmations expressed as if they have already happened are very important. Examples while you're in the year of the Rat: *"Prosperity is flowing my way."* *"My career is thriving."* *"I have many travel opportunities."*

### **Feng Shui at Work/Classes:**

I will be teaching a series of three classes, "Feng Shui for Prosperity" through Acalanes Adult Ed: Tuesdays Beginning April 23 1:00-3:00 pm

You can register on line at [acalanes.k12.ca.us/adulted](http://acalanes.k12.ca.us/adulted) (Participants will receive \$40 off a home consultation.)

The Year of the Rat is set to bring you much prosperity and business success. It looks to be a very active year with many changes and the ability to get things done. Prepare for a wild ride!

For questions or home consultations email at [mtmccull@aol.com](mailto:mtmccull@aol.com) and put "Feng Shui" on the subject line, or visit my website at [www.fengshuibymaria.com](http://www.fengshuibymaria.com), (where you can read past columns and learn more enhancement ideas), or **Facebook "Feng Shui by Maria"**, where I post pictures as examples to enhancements.

\* Check out my **BLOG** – Just go to the website and click on "Blog": You can view many pictures and, I will respond to your questions quickly.

**Maria McCullough** is the owner / founder of Feng Shui by Maria ([www.fengshuibymaria.com](http://www.fengshuibymaria.com)) and is a speaker and educator with over 20 years of experience. She specializes in residential, landscape and business consultations. She is a graduate of the Western School of Feng Shui and has personally trained with Terah Kathryn Collins, founder of the Western School of Feng Shui, specializing in Essential Feng Shui® and author of numerous books including "The Western Guide to Feng Shui."

