

## STARS OF THE SHOW

An old-time matinee Feb. 4 at the Artcraft Theatre in Franklin will feature appearances by classic TV personalities.

### Jane Hodge aka Janie

**Family:** Mother of two sons who resides in Indianapolis; widowed several years ago.

**Bio:** Raised as an only child in the Indianapolis area, she graduated from Shortridge High School then earned a degree at Indiana University School of Music. In addition to hosting "Popeye & Janie" and "Janie & Friends," Hodge taught music in Indianapolis Public Schools for more than 20 years.

**First start in showbiz:** Dance classes and violin lessons from an early age

**Signature act:** Songs with puppets Gillroy and Treble Clef

**Favorite pastime:** Teaching bridge classes several times a week in Castleton



HODGE

### Hal Fryar aka Harlow Hickenlooper

**Age:** 78  
**Family:** Resides with Henrietta, his wife of 25 years, in Franklin; father of four and grandfather of seven

**Bio:** Raised in Indianapolis with one sister by a single mother, Fryar graduated from Tech High School. He studied speech at Indiana University

**First start in showbiz:** Dressed in burlap for a grade school play, Fryar "itched in all the wrong places" and fell in love with audience laughter.

**Signature act:** Hitting the looong last note from 1960 to 1972 on "The Three Stooges" Saturday mornings on Channel 6 with his own rendition of "Happy Birthday" until someone nailed him with a pie.

Fryar also hosted "Fun Time" and "All Hands On Deck." In 1965, he hit the silver screen, appearing in a Three Stooges movie called "The Outlaws Is Coming."

**Favorite pastime:** Playing tennis with his neighbor, Roger



FRYAR

### Robert Glaze aka Cowboy Bob

**Age:** 64  
**Family:** Resides with Gail, his wife of 30 years, in Morgan County

**Bio:** Raised in Oklahoma with a sister by a single mother, Glaze moved to Indiana in 1955. He graduated from Culver Military Academy in 1960 and earned a degree in radio and TV at Indiana University.

**First start in showbiz:** Took a job as a camera man at the Bloomington branch of WTTV-Channel 4. Progressed in the business, appearing on "Popeye & Janie" and "Popeye's Diner." Landed his own show, "Chuckwagon Theater" from 1970 to 1980 and "Cowboy Bob's Corral" from 1980 to 1989.

**Signature act:** Live TV appearances with dogs Tumbleweed and Scuba, horses Windjammer and Skye and Sourdough the Singing Biscuit.

**Favorite pastime:** 10-year member of Indianapolis Rowing Center at Eagle Creek Park



GLAZE

## • Show

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said with a smile.

Wearing a brightly colored striped jacket and a straw hat, Fryar, known for his slapstick humor, will take the stage as Harlow Hickenlooper.

He plans a lot of audience participation, Fryar said.

"I will get some of the baby boomers and maybe put them through the paces," he said. "I'll probably end up with a pie in the face. Too many people would be disappointed if that didn't happen."

# Author's style is chick lit with some twists

By PAULINE M. MILLARD  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## NEW YORK

International atrocities were all in a day's work for Jessica Jiji, a news writer at the United Nations. Foreign policy, election results and body counts were, and still are, her bread and butter.

When she came home, Jiji needed to decompress. Fashion magazines were just the thing to relax her brain.

And soon, she turned to reading chick lit, a light, easily absorbed genre of books akin to romance novels.

But the 40-year-old with a master's degree in international relations was quickly frustrated by chick lit. She found it simple and at times poorly written. Instead of complaining about it, a friend suggested that she write her own.

At first she scoffed, but soon Jiji found herself writing. In the grand tradition of writing what you know, Jiji did just that.

Her chick lit book, "Diamonds Take Forever," follows the basic formula for the genre: heartbreak, the struggle to get over it and the quest for a new man.

However, Jiji's book has a twist. Between the tales of woe and the encouragement from the ubiquitous gay friend are Arabic phrases and references to arranged marriages within an Arab and Jewish family.



AP PHOTO

Author Jessica Jiji incorporates Arabic culture in her novel "Diamonds Take Forever." Jiji's father was raised in Iraq, and she wanted to convey positive aspects of the Arabic world in her book.

"I hope to convey in the novel some of the admirable qualities in Arabic culture like generosity, warmth, hospitality and loyalty," the lithe Jiji says over plates of hummus and vegetables at a cafe near her midtown Manhattan home.

"These are all values that my father passed on to me and is very proud of. He

attributes them to his upbringing in Iraq. When you ask Americans about Iraq, I don't think the first things that comes to mind are the ones I just named. But they are for me," says Jiji, a small woman with long, straight dark hair and deep, dark eyes.

Her exotic, mysterious looks are in

sharp contrast with her friendly and outgoing personality. She is happy as she speaks, even when recalling the frustrations of getting her manuscript out to agents while raising a newborn.

"Diamonds Take Forever" is the story of Michelle Benamou, a twentysomething who lives in Queens with her ex-Marine boyfriend, Joe.

He breaks up with her, leaving Michelle not only heartbroken but without an apartment, a fate that can be worse than death in New York City. As Michelle tries to find an apartment, she samples some new suitors and gets on with life.

Jiji's father may be Iraqi, but in "Diamonds Take Forever" she decided to make Michelle Moroccan instead.

"Iraq is too much associated with war and terrorism right now," the author says. "I couldn't make her Iraqi without addressing all the other issues connected with Iraq."

Jiji sent her manuscript to 120 agents and was surprised at the response she got from agents and editors.

She eventually signed with Avon Trade, which was looking for more ethnic stories in its line of novels geared at women.

This amused Jiji, who is half Iraqi, half American and a practicing Buddhist.

"Exotic for me was the blue-eyed blond girl, the Protestant whose parents didn't have funny names," she says.

## • Rebirth

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

Foods include soup, which is traditionally believed to open the appetite and aid digestion; noodles, for longevity; bamboo shoots, for best wishes; round dumplings, meaning reunion; and a whole chicken, symbolizing completeness, family, fortune and luck.

Oranges and pears also are served.

"When you eat an orange, you always share," Lin says.

The action is believed to bring luck. However, one never shares a pear, which symbolizes departure.

The family meal ends with more soup. The large amount of food symbolizes abundance and wealth for the household.

During the day, youngsters pay

### THE LIN FILE

**Name:** Phylis Lan Lin  
**Bio:** Born in Taiwan. Came to the United States in 1966 when she was 24. She is a U.S. citizen.  
**Age:** 64  
**Family:** Husband, Leon Lin, author and retired aerospace engineer; daughter, Toni Lin, an Indianapolis physician  
**Education:** Montana State University, master's degree; University of Missouri at Columbia, doctorate degree  
**Employment:** University of Indianapolis for 33 years

**Duties at the university**

- Presidential international ambassador
- Executive director, University of Indianapolis Press
- Curator, Au Ho-nien Museum of Chinese Art
- Professor of sociology
- Director, Asian programs
- Director, Graduate Applied Sociology Programs
- Adviser, The Phylis Lan Lin Program in Social Work

respect to their parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles by wishing them a happy New Year.

Children also receive good-luck money in a red envelope.

New Year's Day is a time to demonstrate reverence for ancestors, Lin says.

"If possible we go to ancestors'

cemeteries and graves to show respect," she says.

On the second day of the year, married women visit their in-laws out of respect.

The celebration ends with the Lantern Festival, celebrated at night with lantern displays and children carrying lanterns in a parade.



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT OOLEY/mooley@thejournalnet.com

Phylis Lan Lin moved to the United States from Taiwan in 1966. Lin says Chinese New Year wishes are traditionally written in gold lettering on red scrolls. The greetings, typically hung on doors, often read "Respectfully wishing you luck and happiness for the new year" or "Everything on Earth returns to spring."

## • Jilted

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

The January freeze can affect relationships of all kinds.

Some people want out of a relationship but don't want to be dateless over the holidays.

Others don't want to ruin the season's celebrations with a painful breakup.

For college students, winter break can turn into winter break-up when newly hatched fall romances don't survive the lengthy separation in December.

Married couples planning to separate or divorce may decide to stay together so the family can have a final traditional Christmas together.

Some singles want to secure a date for New Year's Eve but don't want to hang around for Valentine's Day.

People who responded to the Yahoo survey shed some new light on the chilling effect of January on relationships.

Younger respondents said their partners' bad behavior at Christmas and New Year's parties was a factor.

One-third of the men surveyed blamed conflicts with in-laws over the holidays.

And 23 percent of those surveyed bought their soon-to-be ex a present out of guilt, knowing that a breakup was imminent.

Advice columns are filled with breakup horror stories around this time of year.

For dating services that specialize in introducing couples, January can be good for business.

Some dating and introduction services see a spike in new clients in January, although there are more factors at work than people on the rebound and people looking for new relationships.

Cheryl Altmere, director of The Right One, a dating service with offices in Green Tree and Monroeville, Pa., says they've been getting more calls than usual in recent weeks. Often, it can be motivated by a New Year's resolution to improve one's personal life.

"They reflect on the last year, and they're not satisfied," she says.

## What's Your Resolution, Baby?

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