



**Marie Osmond lost 40 lbs.\***  
\*Results not typical

**nutrisystem**  
**EAT FREE for 3 WEEKS!** **START NOW!**  
WITH AUTO-DELIVERY ORDER.

Get the latest News, Sports and Gossip delivered to your home  
Sign Up | Manage Account

**DAILY NEWS | Queens**

REGISTER LOGIN

HOME AUTOS REAL ESTATE JOBS CLASSIFIEDS IN PRINT TICKETS CONTESTS

Search

- NEWS
- SPORTS
- GOSSIP
- ENTERTAINMENT
- NY LOCAL
- OPINIONS
- VIDEO
- BLOGS
- LIFESTYLE
- MONEY
- LATINO
- SERVICES
- BRONX
- BROOKLYN
- QUEENS
- YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
- GAS PRICES
- EDUCATION
- WEATHER
- TRAFFIC
- LOTTERY
- DEATH NOTICES
- PHOTOS
- COLUMNISTS

## Meet the fortune-teller of Flushing

BY MAUREEN KER

Tuesday, January 8th 2008, 4:00 AM

The middle-age man with a weather-beaten face crouches over a red book in a corner off the sidewalk and scribbles on a notepad, while a young woman sitting across from him wears a worried expression.

After an agonizing few minutes for the fidgeting woman, the man looks up from under his worn straw hat and speaks to her in soft, reassuring tones. She nods and reaches into her purse to pull out a \$20 bill. The man accepts the money and bids her farewell.

Master Li has just seen his first patient of the day.

Li Feng Jun - or Master Li, as he is more commonly known on the crowded streets of Flushing - is not a doctor. He is a Chinese fortune-teller.

He sits outside the LIRR Main St. station in a recess off the busy sidewalk seven days a week, rain or shine, to advise the worried and the dejected.

The beginning of the year marks the peak season for fortune-tellers. This is the time when anxious souls approach Master Li to find out if Lady Luck will beckon in the year ahead.

Fortune-tellers such as Li play a unique role in Chinese society. They are often respected professionals who advise businesses about deals and mergers.

To troubled individuals, they also act as discreet street psychotherapists. Their methods are unorthodox - usually invoking superstitions about a patient's karma and consulting arcane manuals to divine the future.

But for those who fear the stigma of mental illness, their services can be invaluable.

Li, 56, claims no special powers but rather relies on years of experience in reading faces - and a little red book containing astrological data - to ascertain a person's fate.

"My job is to reduce their stress," said Li, who believes that much of that stress comes from adapting to a new country.

"They are worried about money and finding a job. They talk of suicide and turning to crime to make ends meet," Li said of his customers.

After 28 years in the business, Li has heard it all. "Love, money, family and work. What else?" he said. "People have the same problems everywhere. In China and in America."

The big difference in America, Li said, is that the cops let him be. "In China, the government would harass me constantly and I have to keep moving about in the marketplace. Here, no one bothers me," he said.

So he camps outside the LIRR station on a rickety stool, his eyes scanning the passing faces. In the summer, he steels himself against the heat with a bottle of water and a battered straw hat with a band that reads "Good Luck." In winter, a velvet fedora, a heavy wool coat and a thermos of tea protect him from the elements.

But Li isn't without his critics.

"Such superstitions can harm people," said Susan Wu Rathbone, known in the neighborhood as Auntie Wu. She is the founder of the nonprofit Chinese Immigrant



DelMundo for News

Master Li, who tells fortunes on a Flushing sidewalk, shakes the sticks that predict whether a person will be blessed with good luck.

Discuss Print Email

- Digg
- Del.icio.us
- Newsvine
- Reddit
- Furl
- Stumble



**EAT HAPPY. FEEL HEALTHY. LIVE LIGHTER!**

**nutrisystem**

**EAT FREE FOR 3 WEEKS!**  
Click here for details.

**START NOW**

*Amy lost 23 lbs.\**  
\*Results not typical.



**nutrisystem**

LOSE WEIGHT THE EASY WAY.

Get 3 Weeks of Food **FREE**  
Click here for details.

**START NOW**

**Newsletter Signup**

Get the latest Updates.

SIGN UP NOW

Services.

Like Li, Auntie Wu helps people with their problems. But she relies on more practical methods.

"We provide English classes and help immigrants find jobs and housing," said the outgoing octogenarian. "Everything is free of charge."

**Discuss this Article**

0 comments so far. Add your comment below!. [Discussion Guidelines]

To post comments, REGISTER or LOG IN

[Click Here](#) to see all comments or to Report Abuse

**ADS BY YAHOO!**

**Online Fortune Telling by Live Psychics**

Personal Fortune readings by Psychics Live 24/7. From \$0.99/min. (Psychics.liveperson.com)

**Fortune Teller**

Browse a huge selection now. Find exactly what you want today. (www.ebay.com)

**Great Tasting Fortune Cookies**

Fast, Fresh, Fabulous, with special 25th Anniversary Rollback pricing. (www.e-fortunecookie.com)

**BUY. RENT. SELL.**  
NYDailyNews.com/RealEstate  
**CLICK HERE** FOR LISTINGS



**BUY.  
RENT.  
SELL.**  
DAILY NEWS  
REAL ESTATE  
**CLICK HERE**  
FOR LISTINGS

[RSS headlines](#)

[Newsletter Signup](#)

[Send your story tips](#)

[Place an ad](#)

**Editorial:**

- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Gossip](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [NY Local](#)
- [Opinions](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)
- [Money](#)
- [Latino](#)
- [Today's Headlines](#)

**Search:**

- [Search Your Neighborhood](#)
- [Find Showtimes & Movie Tickets](#)
- [Find Gas Prices in your area](#)
- [Search for Tickets](#)
- [Search Restaurant Listings](#)

**Services:**

- [Your Profile](#)
- [Newspapers in Education](#)
- [Sign up for Home Delivery](#)
- [Manage Home Delivery Account](#)
- [NYDailyNews.com Archives](#)
- [FAQ's](#)
- [RSS Headlines](#)
- [Advertising Media Kit](#)

**Multimedia:**

- [Video](#)
- [Photo Galleries](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Audio Slideshows](#)
- [News Discussions](#)
- [Sports Discussions](#)
- [Entertainment Discussions](#)
- [NY Local Discussions](#)
- [Opinions Discussions](#)

**Classifieds:**

- [Autos](#)
- [Real Estates](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Marketplace](#)
- [Newspapers Ads](#)
- [Print Edition Special Sections](#)
- [Buy Sports, Concert and Broadway Tickets](#)

Contact Us | Sitemap | RSS | Latest Feeds | MY YAHOO!

Use of this website signifies your agreement to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy © Copyright 2008 NYDailyNews.com. All rights reserved.

