

LA Unscripted | February 1st, 2022

From hot spots to hidden gems This is your guide to all things good around L A The unscripted way as we celebrate the year of the tiger from Alhambra Happy Lunar New Year Everyone I'm clearly I'm dressed for the occasion and today we are learning the rich cultural history behind this holiday and honoring the ST traditions of the Spring Festival The Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival has been going on for about 20 years when you see those lions out there and you feel the beat of the drums It's almost like magic this year It's a different celebration with COVID We're trying to make sure that we're doing this in a responsible manner This year is the year of the tiger The colors red and gold are very important sign of festivity longevity and just good luck The Lunar New Year is a celebration of a new moon cycle that happens on an annual basis And it's celebrated in Asia in the East as opposed to the western calendar which celebrates New Year As we know on January 1st our celebration I think is different because historically it's been the largest Lunar New Year celebration in the Sandy Road Valley Alhambra has a large API population and I think that it goes beyond just the API community into the rest of the residents here We recognize how special that is It is very special for me to be the first Asian American female mayor and council member in this city I grew up here an immigrant from Taiwan We moved here when I was a little child right now We're reaching about 90,000 people total almost 55% a api and about 35% or so Latinos This Lunar New Year Festival is a collaboration between the city of Hamra and the Chamber of Commerce It is very special for the community to have something back again just bring joy and some something for the family to enjoy I'm going to say that Alhambra sorry for my neighboring cities has some of the best Asian and particularly Chinese food Chinese cuisine in the entire area So I'll say that and that's represented at our celebrations and our and our farmers market Everyone is welcome at our at our community We hope that this is an is an opportunity for people to come out first of all to feel safe but also to be able to celebrate It is quite the celebration On Chinese New Year's Eve more fireworks are set off all over the world than any other night And similar to the Mexican holiday the Muto families burn fake money to ensure ancestors have good fortune in the afterlife How cool is it that we get to shine the light on these traditions and now passing the lantern to our liberty they float they hang they fly high in the sky I'm about to shed some light on Chinese lanterns and how they can add a little bit of luck prosperity and happiness

into your life Have you ever made a red lantern Yes So you're a pro so you can teach me how to do it The short cut to how to celebrate Chinese New Year is anything red anything gold anything brown because it's infinite No beginning no ending The red is luck So the red lantern um signifies luck for the New Year We call it Lunar New Year because it's not just the Chinese that celebrates this day I like to call it the chopstick culture and the chopstick culture is basically Japan Korea Singapore Vietnam and China We also call it our Spring Festival That's the significance of it Because when you look at spring it signifies rebirth it signifies newness it signifies hope And therefore the Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival is the biggest celebration in almost all of Asia besides all of China So everyone would go out with their lanterns to greet and meet people out in the streets And basically in a way it's kind of like our Mardi gras right So we're gonna make a few different kinds today Um we have this swirl lantern that we have made and we have this traditional style first step you make some designs and draw step two we turn the paper over so that one you are going to roll it this way and tape the edges together On Chinese New Year Everybody gets to do this and you don't have to be Chinese Anyone can do this right Because this brings luck and who doesn't want luck in their life as your elder and as somebody who I can treat like my daughter I give you a home bow and that also you're lazy And that is also to wish you luck throughout the year Thank you so much You have no idea how much this means to me Everybody raise the red lantern put it outside your house It'll bring you good luck happiness prosperity All of the above One of the most important aspects of this time is reuniting with family and what better way to bond than through your belly And today's technology can help keep us close even while apart Plus a personal chef can zoom right into your kitchen Hello I'm Dana's son Cole Today I will be daring My mother who does not know how to cook at all when she made meatballs my dogs wouldn't even eat the leftovers Mom I dare you to make dumplings Oh really Is that true Ok Well theyre accepted I'm here with me from the go The school and she's actually going to walk me through how to make dumplings with coal we're making today are chicken and chive pot stickers What's really really easy about dumplings Is that basically we just have to add the ingredients to it and mix the fillings Dana Have you ever separated an egg yolk before I have shocking Take your chives and thinly slice it Who's doing the chopping here Is it cole are you doing the chopping Even Cole doesn't trust me with a knife OK That looks really I mean it's starting to smell like it I think it should smell What is really important guys is that you don't over

stuff because we want to be able to seal this whenever you're ready Go ahead and go for it OK About a medium heat a good drizzle of oil and start laying your dumplings in your pan OK Do a little dip and let's hope that they're cooked they're cooked I think they should be cooked Our course is good We did I cooked something See I mean I told you you can do it and you can do any filling you want Thank you so much I did it I believe it was like half because because you know I had to make half of it cool Traditional Lunar New Year foods also include longevity noodles steamed fish and sticky rice balls Those are good All right we have more goodness coming up with a scripted celebrating the year of the tiger And Alhambra is back with the roar It's the year of the tiger And we're honoring the cultural Lunar New Year traditions The unscripted way Welcome back to our celebration I'm dressed in a cultural dance costume provided by the Asian Art Talent Foundation The year the t is believed to be all about big changes But one thing that's not changed dancing has been part of the Spring Festival since the very beginning What is the history of fan dancing It's around 3000 years But in China I can say 5000 long long time That's why you can see different kind of dance different kind of fan different kind of shape that is come from different history Fan dance is like actually it is a very very traditional for all Asian They using fan dance as like like the main tool to celebrating the Lunar New Year is considered good luck to the people Wish you good luck and Happy New Year during the New Year season So this is the the kung fu fan Oh yes Ah and close it and each window have a shape like cotton Ok It's like this But you are like very shy You using your finger you open you see Oh is there any any handsome man out there Any hotties out here Oh hotties You you're not enough conservative next year will be our 20 year anniversary Asian Art Talent Foundation We've been performing distance for the past 10 years We go to different country Taiwan China and Thailand we found this one in 2003 as a nonprofit organization to explore uh the legacy And then tell people about uh what is Asian culture and what is the traditional uh zip zag 123123123123 And go like 12 Number eight you see you you draw the eight here 12 Here here you are very smart Go Ok So now you've taught the most uncoordinated person on the planet how to fan dance today Can anyone learn Yeah Anyone from the age from 3 to 8090 years old can learn if she can teach me she can teach anyone Yeah celebrations are taking place all over So going off script in Glendale ro a pizza popping up to feed the tiger The pizza is serving a Chinese New Year roasted duck pie for a limited time I mean there are just so many ways to join in the festivities and learn the history of

the Lunar New Year So make sure you find out what's happening in your community and coming up more customs and lunar celebrations When a unscripted from Alhambra returns Cheers to the Lunar New Year You know China is world famous for tea The soothing sip was originally used as medicine Traditionally people drink tea to socialize So it was like a centerpiece for conversation Hi my name is Samuel Wang and I'm the owner of ST L A and I am revealing the art of traditional Chinese tea So I grew up drinking tea with my family Uh when I was uh raised in Taiwan it was really comforting it was really fun to to surround myself uh with this practice and having actually having friends over and drink tea I always appreciate it appreciate my own culture and wanted to see what we can do to bring a little bit of that to United States and to Los Angeles Currently everybody is moving such a fast pace So for us we really want to push for this slow living type of life coming to sleep since I think tea itself is very calming Uh We've had computer engineers Uh we have people on dates You know you can really really kind of focus on each other when you're here doing tea because tea itself is very uh it needs some care it needs you to make it it needs to you need to wait for it I grew up with these Oolong are what I drank Well what my dad drank So I just drank it drank it with him So that's what we want to focus on here So it's the moment right The moment of having friends around having people around you you know having that conversation around tea The old tree is floral orchid malt vanilla wood Yeah So this one is from Yunnan China and this is picked off a tree that's been there for 300 years Uh We tell everybody we're tea room first But when the pandemic hit we put a little more more focus on food and take out and delivery do some outdoor tea ceremony which is really nice to see This is our setup generally if you come and do a tea ceremony uh indoors or outdoors So this is called a fairness cup put in there Since you can see how much tea you have in there you know how much to share with whoever is drinking with you How many times can you see it for a black tea Generally you can do at least six This is so soothing So now that I've kind of watched you can you kind of coach me through it Can I do one Of course OK I'm going in the fairness cup because I don't want you cheating with how much you get is a 5050 state It's a different color It's almost like drinking wine because there's layers to it Do a tea ceremony online even though you can't serve tea to your friends But I think everybody can gather over tea still or have a virtual tea gathering still come through and buy the tea ceremony at home We were happy to share all the knowledge we have How do I say Thank you in Chinese It says Xie Xie Xie

Xie Too much sh down in there So you want a more like a X like a XXX I almost said a bad word Chinese or Lunar New Year celebrations typically last for 16 days I mean that's a lot of festivities people So let's check back in with Liberty Chan who's got some sweet details to share They've been serving up sweet treats that this family run bakeries since 1938 So who better to give us our just desserts for the day Welcome to Phoenix Bakery Not too sweet delicious So I used to come here to uh Chinatown to eat maybe once a week And then if I was a good daughter she would bring me to Phoenix Bakery and we would go home with one of these My parents started this because they miss the sweets from China and most Asian people not just the Chinese don't like the super sweet things like the uh marzipan you know and the butter creams Uh and we've stayed true to the original recipes that were developed by my parents and by my uh uncle and you'll meet my cousin later He's in charge of the kitchen So we are the next generation running this bakery My generation grew up here there was no preschool there was no head start We didn't have nannies you know any of this sort of thing So as soon as we if my mother had to work we were here and So we grew up here and if you were able to box cookies or bag something you were put to work So if people wanted to celebrate Lunar New Year would they buy these past They would buy the main the Chinese pastries to give out the main items that first started The company was the almond cookies and the butterflies OK And then my dad started producing the strawberry whipped cream cake This is what they're known for here at Phoenix Bakery This is so good I would like one of these every day How does it feel to carry on the legacy of your parents' bakery We're very grateful to be here Still I came back here about six years ago because they figured they needed a female perspective and I'm the only female on both sides of the family OK So the signature strawberry cake that's the base What comes after the base OK Next we'll put in the the cream Let's see if I got it Oh this is nice This is fun How am I doing Great This is L OK You want to get your tip lower I did my best But if you want a cake that doesn't look like this come to Phoenix Bakery for Lunar New Year There is always so much to discover in Southern California So be like a tiger and go get it Hi Christina Hi Jessica So great to see you in your book I happen to love moon cakes and milk bread What a beautiful book by the way are there customary things that you and your family always have for Lunar New Year Yeah So Lunar New Year I I find it a very like poetic and kind of symbolic holiday You see like dumplings a lot of times like dumplings kind of look like little money bags a little parcels and the more dumplings you eat

the more wealthy you'll be in the New Year or um having long noodles like you shouldn't cut them short or they want long noodles for like longevity and long life And so my family always had had kind of that array of food on the table We heard these mochi these pe coconut peanut mochi balls are really a go to for Lunar New Year for you Is there a story to these like why these are matter this time of year for this holiday There's various forms of gluten as rice balls Um This actual recipe is a very traditional thing that you would find at Chinese bakeries I love making these because it feels like it's winter time They kind of look like Lenovo Yeah I have the mochi dough and I could not believe how easily it came together in the in the pan All you do is just combine like full fat coconut milk It keeps it like nice and soft and you combine that with sugar and then the gluten nose rice flour you just kind of cook it down in a pan until it looks like play dough and then the filling which is a lot of peanuty goodness And now we can get ready to a symbol or mochi balls with our mochi Here the recipe makes 20 mochi balls And so if you roll it out to like a rectangle that's about 12 by 15 you can essentially cut it into like a grid that's like four by five Start wherever you want Take one square Yeah mine's a rectangle of course because I technically is also a rectangle and yours is scoop one tablespoon and then once we dust them in coconut shredded coconut they'll look perfect Look at this little cutie snowball and then once you have little guy I like to put in these like little if you want to be cute you can put it in a little cupcake liner or not Like I love it I feel like Christina you and I should try one together Yum Thank you guys so much for celebrating the Lunar New Year with us May it be a fierce one to us with how you're honoring the holiday We'll see you next time