



Round Valley Reader



This activity is funded in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency, through the Upstate California Creative Corps program.

VOLUME I ISSUE 26

PAST * PRESENT * FUTURE

FEBRUARY 9TH 2024



by Michelle Pēnaloza

LUNAR NEW YEAR, PAST & PRESENT: COVELO LOCALS' STORIES & MENDOCINO COUNTY-WIDE CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR

新年快乐

2024

YEAR OF THE DRAGON



This Saturday, February 10th, is Lunar New Year, the new moon a new year on the lunisolar calendar. It is widely celebrated in United States. While many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Lunar New Year has become culturally significant for many Asian American who didn't grow up celebrating Lunar New Year, but attest to this, personally!) I interviewed friends, fellow AAPI Year, Jessica Harness and Sandy Wake, who shared a bit about beyond.

Jessica Harness: As a small kid, Lunar New Year was a very exciting time for me, because it meant I got to buy new clothes. That would happen a once a year during that time of year—my mom would buy me a whole set of clothes, shoes, and everything. In Taiwan, you clean up your house before the new year. You get rid of all the bad luck and all the trash. Then, after the new year you don't clean to keep all the luck!

The main thing we always did that I remember is that you get together with the whole family on New Year's Eve—all the relatives, a big sleepover with the cousins, the whole house full of people. Things we would eat—dumplings were essential; they represent a golden nugget. My grandma would put coins in some of the dumplings, so that was always very exciting. We'd also eat fish, which represented prosperity, and spinach, to signify long life and spring. Then, eventually it just became hot pot because it's easier! Other traditions: midnight firecrackers and the handing out of red envelopes—adults, people with jobs, put money inside and give to kids, people who aren't married, students, etc. Once you have a job and are an adult, you give red envelopes to your grandparents and parents. Here in Covelo, the way I celebrate Lunar New Year is to have hot pot with my family and friends and give red envelopes to my girls. I also call my family in Taiwan. When I call, the whole family is there celebrating, and I can talk to everyone.



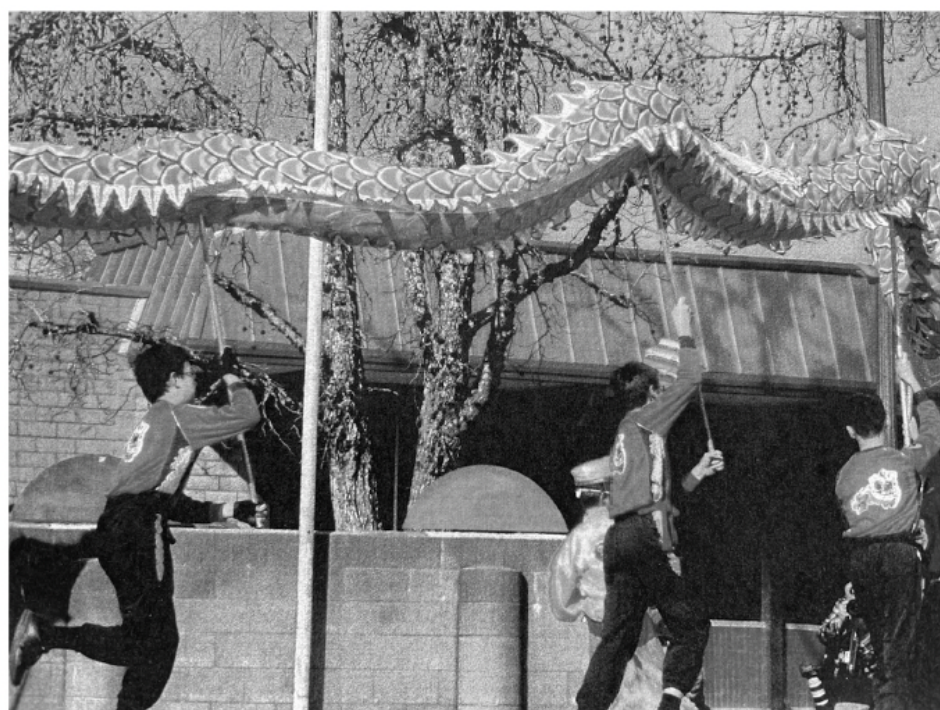
which celebrates the arrival of spring, and the beginning of China, Taiwan, South Korea, and Vietnam, as well as in the do not observe the Chinese/lunar zodiac, the celebration of Americans of a wide range of diasporas. (As a Filipinx who began and has been celebrating since college—I can Covelo community members, and celebrators of Lunar New their own celebrations past and present, in Covelo and beyond.

Sandy Wake: I didn't grow up celebrating the Lunar New Year, but my parents did teach us a few Japanese traditions: cleaning your closets, starting the new year in a good way with no financial debts, and resolving arguments and apologizing. But overall, growing up the holiday wasn't a big deal for our family. As a teen and young adult, growing up in San Francisco, I began celebrating Chinese New Year because I had plenty of Chinese American friends. I married a Cantonese Chinese man – so we raised our children celebrating the holiday. There was always lots of visiting people, bringing flowers and citrus fruit, and going out to eat and sharing food. As I got older, I learned that many other people in the Asian American diaspora besides Chinese people celebrate the holiday, so I started calling it Lunar New Year instead of Chinese New Year. I raised my three kids in Willits in the 80s and 90s and there were not many people to share or celebrate the holiday with, so we would go down a lot to San Francisco to celebrate and sometimes Santa Rosa. Now that I don't have any kids at home, I gather with friends and make it a point to reconnect with people I care about. I most enjoy the excitement of lion dancing! Watching two people under the head and tail doing fantastic acrobatics and funny movements, the cacophony of the drums—I find it really rousing and exciting! It brings a smile to my face. I also love the whole idea of the lion dancers scaring away the evil and bad things so that only good things can come to you – I really like that!

For my part, I started celebrating Lunar New Year during college, when I was a part of the Asian American Student Association—I was social chair! Every year, we'd put on a variety show on campus—singing, dancing, spoken word, comedy. We'd rehearse for several months before—lots of laughs during practices and lots of eating after. After college, I'd get together with other AAPI friends who grew up celebrating the holiday and have hot pot, mostly. For me, it's a holiday that is one of friendship, of chosen family, and a coming together of children of diaspora. Also, I love celebrating the new year in January and a month or so later with the lunisolar calendar—lots of opportunity to consider renewal and new beginnings. And who doesn't love to find more to celebrate? In greater Mendocino County, A Lunar New Year, Year of the Dragon Lantern Festival will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sudhana Center, 225 Hope St., Ukiah. There will be a dragon dance, Chinese orchestra, 24 seasons drumming and a lion dance. Activities include Chinese painting, Chinese calligraphy and red envelope lantern making. Food and drinks will be available. All are welcome. Free event. For more information, call 707-468-1138. Additionally, the Annual Children's Chinese New Year's Parade, a beloved annual event in the town of Mendocino, will take place Feb 15th from 11am to 12pm. Since it began in 1992 the Chinese New Year parade has grown to almost 500 students. Children from Mendocino, Fort Bragg, Point Arena, and Ukiah will be marching to the temple of Kwan Tai to celebrate Lunar New Year. The parade will start at the corner of Kasten and Ukiah Street and march down Main Street to the temple. Community members are invited to follow the children through the Temple to view the interior and the altar laden with incense and food.



Covelo locals Jessica, Jen, and Kaitlin Harness celebrating Lunar New Year in Taiwan with family and friends



Dragon dancers from Ukiah Lunar New Year celebration, 2015 (or so!).



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ATTENTION READERS: The article below is fictional and does not represent current events in Round Valley. It is designed to encourage our community to imagine a the future here and what we want that to look like. Do you have ideas for the future of Round Valley? Email coveloarts@gmail.com

ROUND VALLEY CAFE OF MISTAKEN ORDERS CELEBRATES ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Imagined by Michelle Pénaloza

Feb 9, 2034

Modeled after the Orange Day Sengawa, also known as the Cafe of Mistaken Orders, in Tokyo, Japan, the Round Valley Cafe of Mistaken Orders celebrated its one-year anniversary this weekend.

No one really gets what they order at the Round Valley Cafe of Mistaken Orders and getting a glass of water, or a menu might take more than ten minutes. But no one really minds. No one complains or makes a fuss; instead, patrons embrace servers' mix-ups and chuckle along with them. That's because everyone knows at this cafe, the servers hired are elderly people with dementia who work as servers once a week. Jessica Harness, the founder of the Round Valley Cafe of Mistaken Orders, works with the local government and medical facilities in Mendocino County to get connected to dementia patients in the area.

At the café, one dementia patient works as a server per hour, wearing an apron that is bright orange, the color associated with dementia care. There is a chair set aside for them near the kitchen so they can rest in between orders. Younger volunteers help the elderly servers as they mark customers' orders on the order forms, which are simple and color-coded.

The café is a safe space where those diagnosed with Alzheimer's, dementia, or other types of cognitive impairment can interact with new people, be productive and feel needed — key to slowing down the progression of neurodegenerative conditions that have no cure.

In Mendocino County, thousands of family members are impacted when a loved one is diagnosed with Alzheimer's, dementia or other types of cognitive impairment. The county's chronic lack of caregivers and the soaring costs of elderly care created a need to find creative ways to empower people with neurodegenerative conditions to keep them as mentally and physically active for as long as possible, rather than isolated at home or at a hospital, that Harness saw the need for, which is why she started the program that became The Round Valley Cafe of Mistaken Orders. "I had read about dementia cafes in Japan and thought, wow—we need something like that in Mendocino County! We need that for our elders and neurodivergent community members in Covelo. It's so hard to watch loved ones affected by these things and hard to help them feel safe and OK. So, that's where the idea started and it's been an empowering experience for people as the servers and patrons." So, dear reader, come on down to The Round Valley Cafe of Mistaken Orders to definitely not get what you ordered, but to be a part of a beautiful, beautiful thing.



FREE PIZZA CONTEST!!! GF NOW AVAILABLE!

Complete the word search. Clip on the dotted line and return to Pizza on the Patio next Friday 2/2. At the end of market there will be a drawing & one winner will be selected for a **FREE PIZZA!!!** Thank you to Troy for sponsoring this contest and creating the word search!



PotP

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- OLIVE
- ROUNDVALLEY
- COVELO
- ONION
- REDPEPPER
- ORGANIC
- YEAST
- HOTSAUCE
- RAVEN
- PARMIGIANA
- GARLIC
- PECORINO
- MARGHERITA
- FLOUR
- PESTOPEAR
- MUSHROOM
- KYBU
- HONEY
- PEPPERONI
- PIZZA
- PATIO



Join our passionate music group with 15 years running! If you love early medieval music, beautiful harmonies, and want to sing with us, we want you in our group. Join your voice with ours in our musical journey. We meet once a week, and perform several times a year. No experience singing with groups needed, just a willing voice. Questions? Call or text Lucy Blais at 707-888-9139





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LUNAR NEW YEAR HOROSCOPES 2024



Rat (1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020)
 Personality traits: Ambitious, charming, talkative, resourceful, private, frugal, critical
 Word for 2024: Listen



Ox (1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021)
 Personality traits: Diligent, gentle, hardworking, reliable, patient, materialistic, stubborn
 Word for 2024: Balance



Tiger (1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010)
 Personality traits: Confident, brave, magnetic, idealistic, thrill-seeking, arrogant, selfish
 Word for 2024: Analyze



Rabbit (1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023)
 Personality traits: Kind, sensitive, artistic, romantic, judgmental, timid, refined
 Word for 2024: Adapt



Dragon (1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024)
 Personality traits: Outspoken, energetic, generous, intelligent, perfectionistic, egocentric, impatient
 Word for 2024: Beginnings



Snake (1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013, 2025)
 Personality traits: Clever, curious, alluring, wise, anxious, calculating, jealous
 Word for 2024: Flexibility



Horse (1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014, 2026)
 Personality traits: Amusing, enthusiastic, independent, persuasive, irresponsible, moody, opportunistic
 Word for 2024: Prosperity



Goat/Sheep (1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015, 2027)
 Personality traits: Easygoing, empathetic, creative, cheerful, disorganized, impulsive, lazy
 Word for 2024: Quiet



Monkey (1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016, 2028)
 Personality traits: Entertaining, intelligent, optimistic, sociable, fickle, secretive, unpredictable
 Word for 2024: Reflection



Rooster (1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017, 2029)
 Personality traits: Adventurous, charitable, funny, loyal, argumentative, boastful, self-involved
 Word for 2024: Prudence



Dog (1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, 2030)
 Personality traits: Helpful, honest, trustworthy, unselfish, pessimistic, anxious, timid
 Word for 2024: Honesty



Pig (1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, 2031)
 Personality traits: Caring, generous, smart, outgoing, fearful, impatient, materialistic
 Word for 2024: Compassion



Fold the paper along the dotted line, leaving the half of the heart image on top, then fold it in an accordion style back and forth so that you can cut out a string of hearts.

ART CONTEST

For this years

EARTH DAY FESTIVAL LOGO

April 20, 2024

Open call for submissions! Submit your digital or original art by Feb 5th. The Earth Day committee will choose the winner, whose art will earn \$100 and be featured in all event promotions. All submitted artwork will be showcased during the festival. Don't miss this opportunity!

For questions and for submissions email Commonsmanager@gmail.com
 Original work can be submitted to The Round Valley Public Library.
 Any submissions may be used for any future Earth Day events.

YOGA

For All

Mondays at 6pm
 at the Legion Hall

Bring a mat if you have one
 Water and an open mind

For more information
 310-210-6042

MISSING DOG

A CRY FOR HELP FOR OUR FURRY FRIEND.

BIGFOOT

Breed: Pitt bull
 Color: grey
 Collar: red

Bigfoot is loose in Halls Valley with a shepherd mix named Koa

CALL OR TEXT WITH ANY INFORMATION

650 797 5540