

我和爸爸的家庭時間

林麗儀

普及灣大學二年中文

我最喜歡中國傳統的食物。我小時候,每個星期天我爸爸都會開車帶我到唐人街去吃早餐和午餐。我們住在舊金山,在一個區叫"Visitacion Valley"。從我家到市中心唐人街只有二十分鐘的車程。星期天不僅是我們爸爸和女兒在一起的一天,也是我們去買菜的一天。

舊金山的唐人街很大,有很多不同的餐廳。四川菜,台灣菜,湖南菜,什麼餐都有!因為很多廣東人住在舊金山,所以那里有很多粵菜餐館。除了餐館以外,唐人街也有很多奶茶店,甜點店和咖啡廳。我們平常還會買包等焙烤食品。我會說:"爸爸!我要買菠蘿包,烤猪肉包和饅頭!"他也會買雞包或者蔥油包。

每到週末會去不同的餐廳,可是我們最常去的是一家點心餐廳。手推車上面有許多不同種類的點心,甜點等食品。我總是會點我的最愛:蝦餃,燒賣,叉燒包,河粉,皮蛋瘦肉粥,芋頭糕和甜豆花。服務員覺得這樣的小女孩可以點菜是那麼的可愛,所以總是給我們一些免費的食物!

我們還去其他餐館。有一個餛飩麵點不僅很好吃,而且還便宜。我常常點一碗最簡單的餛飩麵。爸爸會點不同的餛飩。有一次爸爸問師傅這是怎麼做的。師傅說:"每天我們都會包新鮮的餛飩,所以這個肉有很甜的味道。這個湯裡面只要放一點鹽,蔥和芝麻油足夠了,新鮮雞蛋面也很重要。"我們吃完了以後,爸爸會給我買珍珠奶茶。我一邊喝著珍珠奶茶,一邊和爸爸到處去買菜。

如果你不是從舊金山來,你可能會覺得這個地方有點怪。但是許多住在這裡的人,包括我,都覺得這是正常的。從中國搬到美國的人都會說這裡的唐人街很像回到家裡,很地道。這是非常獨特的。我真的很想念那裡,我很期待,真的等不及要回家了!

Vocabulary

傳統 chuántǒng traditional

舊金山 jiùjīnshān San Francisco

唐人街 táng rén jiē Chinatown

四川 Szechuan

台灣 Taiwan

湖南 Hunan

奶茶 nǎichá milk tea

甜點 tiándiǎn dessert

點心 diǎnxīn dim sum

手推車 Shǒutuīchē trolley/food cart

蝦餃 Xiā jiǎo shrimp dumpling

燒賣 shāomai (shumai, pork dumplings)

叉燒包 chāshāo bāo bbq pork bun

芋頭糕 yùtóu gāo

河粉 hé fěn rice noodle

皮蛋瘦肉粥 pídàn shòu ròu zhōu century egg pork porridge

免費 miǎnfèi free
餛飩 húntún wonton
簡單 jiǎndān simple
師傅 Shīfù chef/master
怪 guài strange/weird
包括 bāokuò including
地道 Dìdào unique
獨特 dú tè authentic

Family Time for Dad and Me

My favorite food is traditional Chinese food. When I was younger, every Sunday my Dad would drive me out to Chinatown to eat breakfast/lunch. We lived in San Francisco, in a neighborhood called “Visitation Valley.” From my house to downtown Chinatown was only a 20 minute drive. Sunday was not only our father-daughter day, but also our grocery day.

San Francisco’s Chinatown is really big, with a bunch of different restaurants. Szechuan food, Taiwanese food, Hunan food, whatever foods they all have! Because a bunch of Cantonese people live in San Francisco, that’s why there are so many Cantonese restaurants there. Apart from restaurants, Chinatown also has a ton of milk tea shops, dessert places, and cafes. We would regularly buy bread and other packaged food. I would say: “Dad! I want to buy pineapple buns, baked pork buns, and steamed buns!” He would buy steamed chicken buns or green onion bread.

Every weekend we would go to a different restaurant, but we would most often go to dim sum. The top of the dim sum carts would have different kinds of dim sum, desserts, and other foods. I would always get my favorite: shrimp dumpling, pork dumpling, pork buns, rice noodles, century egg and pork porridge, taro cake, and sweet tofu pudding. The server would think it was so cute that a little girl was ordering, that’s why they would give us free food!

We would also go to other restaurants. There was a wonton restaurant that was not only tasty, but also very cheap. I would order a simple bowl of wonton noodles. My dad would order something different every time. One time Dad asked the chef how to make it. The chef said “every day we will wrap the wontons fresh, that’s why the meat filling has a very sweet taste. For the soup, all you need is a little salt, green onion, and sesame oil. Fresh noodles is also very important.” When we finished eating, Dad would let me buy milk tea with boba. I would simultaneously drink my tea while going with Dad to buy groceries.

If you’re not from San Francisco, you might think this place is a bit strange. But for many of the people that live here, including myself, will think that this is pretty normal. Those who moved from China to the U.S would say that this Chinatown is very similar to the one back home, it’s very unique and authentic. I really miss being there, I can’t wait to go home!