

SUMMER 2018 EDITION  
2018年暑期版

# CHINATOWN COMMUNITY PRESS

## 華埠社區志





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“The Post Office Building Residency 2010”

《郵局》

By//作者: Gabrielle R Howe

“Americanized Diet”

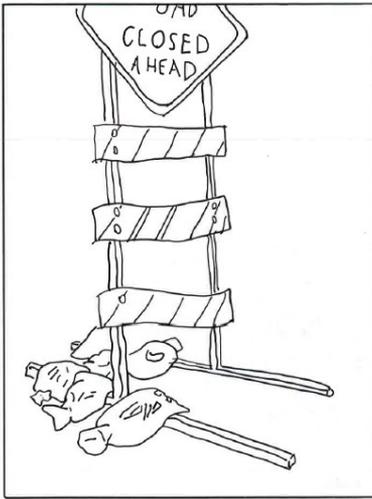
## 《飲食習慣》

By//作者: Jingru Lin/林靜如



After immigrating to the United States, my family started to eat less rice. Our dining table has become more inclusive and diversified as we integrate into American society.

在移民到美國之後，我們家漸漸少了烹飪米飯的頻率。從一開始對美國速食食品充滿新奇到了現在的見怪不怪。



Yong  
12th and Hamilton St.



Jason  
12th and Pearl Street



## “Reimagining Chinatown North”

### 《重塑中國城的北邊》

By/作者: Asian Arts Initiative

(Youth Arts Workshop)

## “Yin and Yang Chinese Dragon”

### 《陰陽龍》

By/作者:Tommy Lu ( 盧家偉 )



I grew up in Chinatown, and I saw many dragon figures around the area. This is because dragons symbolize good fortune because of their energetic image.

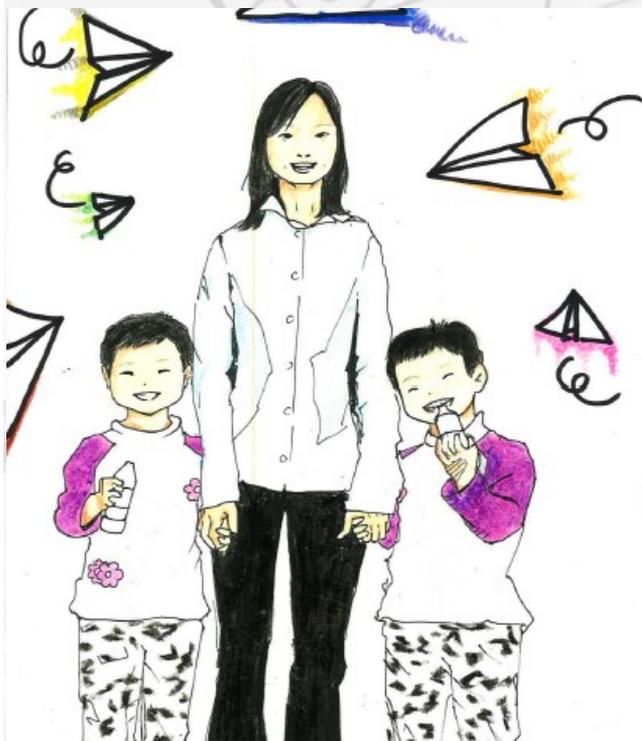
我在唐人街的社區長大，我在附近看到了很多龍的身影。  
龍象徵著好運，因為它們充滿活力。

“Hello Dad!”

## 《哈嘍 依爸!》

By/作者: Jingwen Lin (林靜雯) &

Jingru Lin (林靜如)



This is an illustration of a family photo taken in China. Every year, my mom would send a set of photos of us to my dad, who was far away in the U.S., to relieve some of his homesickness. She would also try to pacify his regret for his six-year absence by documenting our growth. In 2009, we finally reunited in the U.S after a 13 hour flight!

這是我們母女三人在中國時拍攝的相片。媽媽每年都會帶我們兩個拍攝一組照片寄給遠在美國的父親，以解他的相思之苦。父親對於他在我們生命中無奈缺席的六年非常自責，所以母親以記錄我們成長的方式來告慰他。在2009年，在13小時的飛機行程后，我們一家人終於團聚了！

## “Cultural Celebration”

### 《傳統慶典》

By/作者: Hui Shi (石惠)



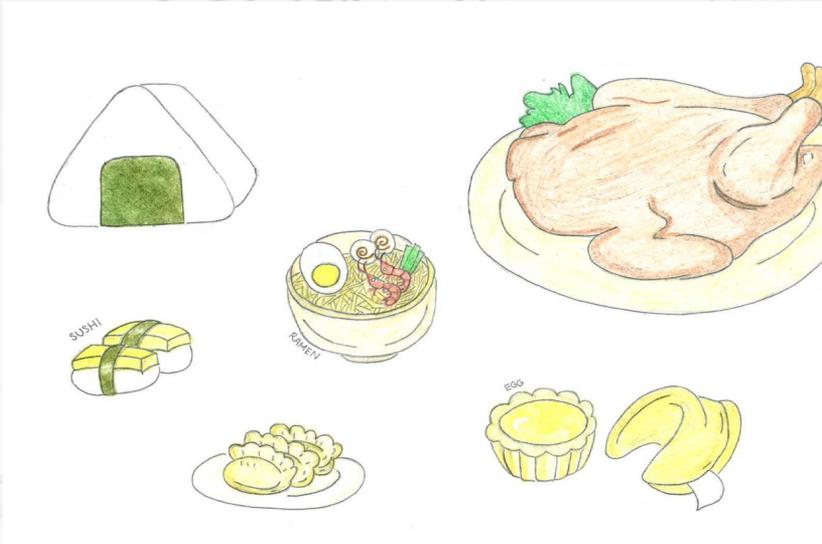
Chinatown is always at its most lively during the Lunar New Year in February. Thousands of people gather on the main street of Chinatown to revel in the highlight of the New Year celebration: the lion dance. The lion dance is one of the oldest traditions celebrating the Chinese New Year. It is a form of traditional folk performing arts in Asia. The performers dress up as lions and make various forms of lion movements with the drum music. Chinese folk traditions hold that lion dance can exorcise evil spirits and foretell good fortune.

每逢二月份的農曆新年，中國城總是最熱鬧的。成千上萬的人慕名而來，想見識見識新年慶典最精彩的部分：舞獅。舞獅是一項慶祝新春的古老習俗。這是一種亞洲民間傳統表演藝術，表演者扮成獅子的模樣在鑼鼓音樂下做出獅子的各種形態動作。中國傳統民俗認為舞獅可以驅邪闢鬼並且帶來好運。

# “My Food Diary”

## 《我的食物日記》

By//作者: Amy Dong ( 董文馨 )



When people first hear about a place called “Chinatown,” they most likely assume that it’s a place filled with authentic and traditional Chinese dishes. Little do they know, one can find all sorts of Asian cuisines here, not just Chinese food. For example, there is ramen (Japanese), Pho (Vietnamese), and/or Korean Barbecue and fried chicken.

當人們第一次聽說一個被稱為“中國城”的地方時，他們很可能會認為它是充滿地道和傳統中國菜的地方。只有少數人才知道，這裡找到其實可以各種各樣的亞洲食物，而不僅僅是中國菜。例如日本的拉麵，越南的米粉，以及韓國的燒烤和炸雞。

“Bitter Melon and Beef with Rice”

《苦瓜牛肉拼飯》

By/作者: Jingwen Lin (林靜雯)



My favorite dish from M Kee Restaurant. I used to dislike bitter melon until I tried this!

我在文旺大飯店最喜愛的菜。我以前不喜歡吃苦瓜，直到我吃了這道菜！

## Calligraphy of “Dragon”

### “龍”的書法

By/作者: Anonymous(匿名者) 2018



Being the oldest continuously used system of writing in the world, Chinese characters have undergone multiple phases of evolution. It began with pictograms, or drawn interpretations of particular objects or concepts, which eventually became what we're using today: the traditional and simplified versions of the Chinese characters. Nonetheless, practicing Calligraphy of the ancient forms of characters is considered a form of artwork. It's popular among Chinese people of all ages, especially for the elders—it helps them focus and alleviate stress.

## Calligraphy of "Horse"

### “馬”的書法

By/作者: Anonymous(匿名者) 2018



作為世界上最古老的連續使用的寫作系統，漢字已經經歷多個階段的演化。它以像形圖或類似於特定物體的圖畫開始，一直到如今的版本：繁體字和簡體字。不管怎樣，對古字形式的書法練習被認為是藝術品的一種形式。它在所有年齡段的中國人中都很受歡迎，特別是對於老年人來說，它有助於令他們集中注意力並減輕壓力。

“Panda”

## 《熊貓》

By/作者: Anonymous (匿名者)



The giant panda was declared an endangered species in the 1990s, but has since been lowered to vulnerable status. The chubby and clumsy animal has won the hearts of many in their native country, China, which led to their establishment as the national animal of China.

上世纪九十年代，大熊猫一度被列为濒危物种，近年终于改善为近危物种。这种胖嘟嘟、圆滚滚的动物在他们的祖国，中国，赢得了许多人的心，这也使他们被确立为中国的國民动

## Painting of the twelve zodiacs

### 《十二生肖的水彩畫》

By/作者: Lidya Ang ( 洪莉達 )



Did you know why the twelve zodiacs are lined up in a way as it is today? There's a story behind this. One day, the Jade Emperor wanted to select twelve animals to be his guards for the Heavenly Gate, he asked for animals in the forest to enter in the Great Race and the top twelve who cross the finish line will become his guards. All the animals utilize their own-advantages towards the race. Thus ,

we have our rank: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig.

你們是否知道為什麼十二生肖以今天的方式排列?這背後有一個故事。有一天，玉皇大帝想要挑選十二隻動物作為他的南天門的守衛，他要求森林裡的動物進入一個重大的比賽，而越過終點線的前十二名則將成為他的守衛。所有動物都利用自己的優勢進行比賽。因此，我們有了如今的排名:鼠,牛,虎,兔,龍,蛇,馬,羊,猴,雞,狗,豬。

“Family”

## 《家庭》

By/作者: Jingru Lin (林靜如)



家 庭

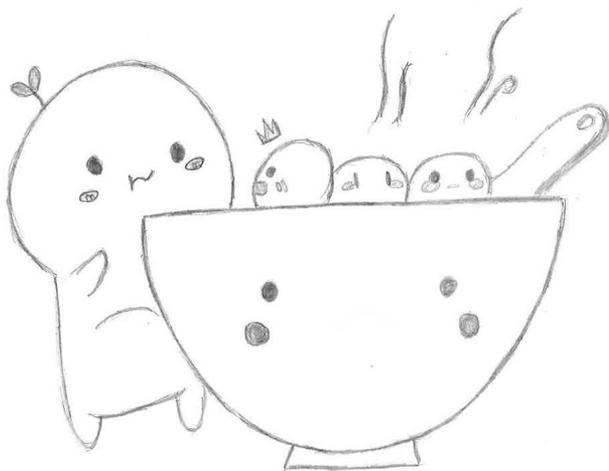
Our family has finally reunited in the United States after six years of waiting in separation. We then spent another six years to gradually mend the estrangement and alienation that had resulted from that past six years.

我們的傢在等待了六年之後終於在美國重聚。然後我們又花了額外的六年一步一步地抹平因為那六年而產生的隔閡與生疏。

## “Togetherness”

### 《團圓》

By/作者: Anonymous (匿名者)



Chinese culture has long associated the names of foods with similar-sounding lucky terms. “Tang Yuan” or “Yuan Xiao” is one of them. In Chinese, these spherical desserts claimed the name

“Tang Yuan,” which sounds like “Tuan Yuan,” a term that means “Togetherness.” Tang Yuan are served on specific occasions, like the Lantern Festival or the Yuan Xiao holiday, where family members get together specifically to enjoy Tang Yuan, signifying that the family members will be together as a whole in the coming years.

中国人喜欢把食物的名字和发音相近的幸运词联系在一起。“汤圆”或“元宵”就是其中之一。在中文里，这些圆圆的甜点叫“汤圆”，听起来像“团圆”，是“團聚”的意思。此外，这种甜点会在特定的场合出现，比如元宵节，在这一天，家人聚在一起吃“汤圆”，意味着在



*Artwork submitted by ZhiCheng Huang, a member of Friends Senior Care Center. One of his many hobbies is to draw mainly portraits and sometimes animals. The Care Center and his home is always filled with his artworks.*





黃志誠是Friends Senior Care Center的其中一員。他的愛好是畫畫，無論是在康樂中心裏或是他的家裏，你總能看見他的作品。

(右邊是黃先生的自畫像)



Self-portrait of Mr. Huang





Taken in front of Wong Wong, across from Jade Harbor

拍攝於Wong Wong前面，在銀泉對面

Roast ducks and scallion chickens are some of the most famous dishes and visual markers of Chinatown. You're missing out if you haven't tried them yet!

烤鴨和蔥雞可是唐人街著名的地標之一，如果你還沒有嚐過，那就趕緊來試試吧！



*In front of fire dept. across from Tea-Do  
在消防局的前面，茶道對面*

This was taken during PCDC's Chinatown History workshop. There were two questions taped next to the posters asking people what they liked about Chinatown and what improvements they would like to see in the future. Most people responded with drawings of "Bubble Tea", a popular milk-tea place among the Chinatown community.

這是在唐人街歷史研討會期間拍攝的。我們的海報旁邊有兩個問題，詢問人們他們對唐人街的看法以及他們希望將來看到的改進。大多數人都在貼紙上畫了奶茶的圖案。(奶茶是唐人街社區中比較受歡迎的一種飲料。)

## Chinese-American Identity in the Urban Landscape

### 城市容貌與亞裔美國人的身份的聯繫

By//作者： Jamie Song/宋傑米

The built environment is a materialization of social superstructure that serves to constantly remind us of where we were, where we are, and where we are going to be in a culture-bound yet ever-changing city of immigrants. My photos attempt to encase specific examples of this fact with special consideration towards the Chinese-American identity – something that I have struggled with, but also celebrated in my life amongst fellow Americans.

我們現在處在的所有建築物都在時時刻刻的提醒著我們來自哪裡，我們身處何地，以及我們如何在這個受著文化鏈接卻不斷地在變化的移民城市裡安身立命，蓬勃生長。我的攝影作品試圖展示這幾個概念，特別是從身為一位華裔美國人的這個角度來看——一個我從小就一直在應對的身份，同時也是我出生以來一直被美國同胞們慶賀的一件事情。



#### “IHP”

International House Philadelphia (IHP) houses hundreds of international students attending Penn and Drexel, including many Chinese students. It has become the spatial focal point of Chinese developments in West Philadelphia like hot pot restaurants and Boba tea stores.

International House Philadelphia 吸納了數百名在賓夕法尼亞大學和德雷塞爾大學上學的國際學生，其中包括許多來自中國的學生。它已經成為西費城華人的——一個聚會地點，例如火鍋店和奶茶店。

## “Chinese-Philadelphian/費城華人”

The façade of the Holy Redeemer Church and School, a bastion of community fellowship in Philadelphia, proudly proclaims this space as a safe haven for Chinese people.

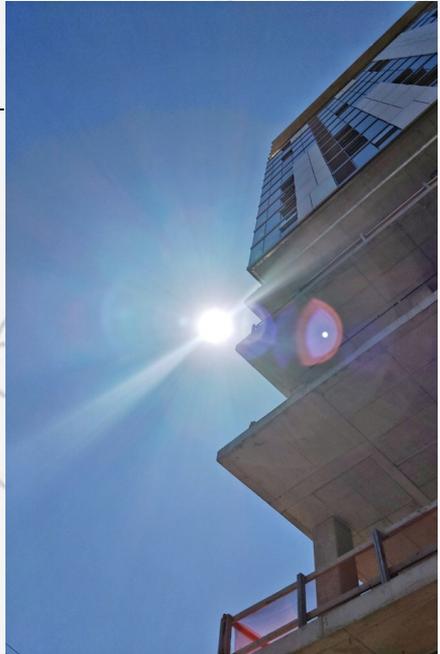
這是費城華人天主教堂暨培德學校的前面。這個地方是費城社區的堡壘，正在自豪地宣稱著自己是華人的避風港。



## “Eastern Sun/東方太陽”

The sunlight in this photo, much like the physical manifestations of real estate development, confer both clarity and obscurity on those viewing it. The rapid real estate developments in Chinatown, especially towards the north, bring into question: who owns Chinatown? Who belongs here? Where are those who are here now going to be in the future?

在這個作品裏的陽光，就像是用另一種方式展現著房地產開發的真實表現，賦予觀看者清晰感同時也有一種朦朧的感覺。在華埠，房地產的發展速度驚人，特別是朝著北邊的發展，問題來了：誰才是華埠的管理者？誰是真正屬於這裡的？現在在這裡的人未來將會在哪裏？

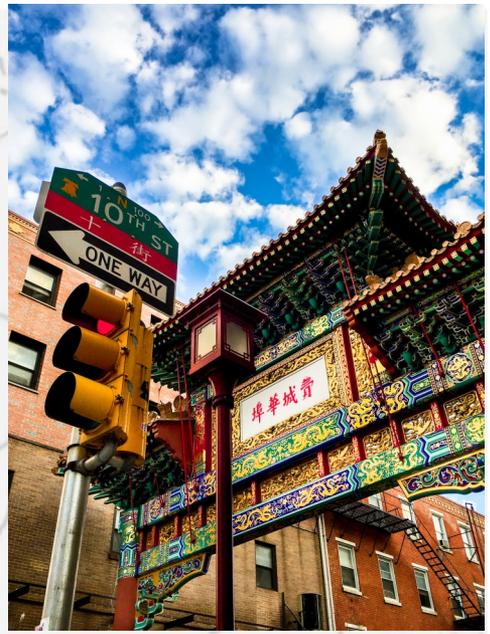




Submitted by Philly Design  
來自費城設計的投稿

華埠是一個很獨特的一個地方，  
你不會在其他地方找到像這裡一  
摸一樣的社區。我們的街道充滿  
各種熟悉的食物和小吃香味。意  
味非凡的壁畫與其他的建築和雕  
塑都在華埠各個角落裡訴說著自  
己的故事。





Chinatown is a unique community. You won't be able to find an exact replica anywhere in the world. Food here is influenced by people from all parts of Asia. Our streets are full of culture — from the familiar smells of comfort food to the beautiful murals and buildings, its an experience like no other.





## ETCCat 6:30PM

The Vine Street Expressway has always been restricting and limiting the growth of Chinatown. The Eastern Tower Community Center (ETCC), an iconic structure, will be the first step in breaking the boundaries.

### 下午六點半的東方大廈

萬安街高速公路的存在妨礙了華埠的發展，ETCC作為一個有標誌性的建築物，將會踏出它的第一步，打破這個局限。

 y.r9831

## Chinatown and Me - Jiayu Zhou

I have always had mixed feelings about Chinatown. On the one hand, I cannot deny my resistance to walk on the trash-littered streets, my hesitation to walk into restaurants that look ancient, or my alienation when hearing unfamiliar songs play in the supermarket. But on the other hand, the food here always grants me a precious taste of home, and the kindness people willingly give to one another is something I have never experienced after relocating to a megacity at the age of 5. As a post-'95 Chinese, Chinatown looks both strange and familiar to me. Its landscape seems to be the product of mid-to-later 20th century Chinese aesthetics aggressively catering to the image of *the East* defined by orientalism, probably devoid of any counterpart in contemporary 21st century China. Yet, the many traditions, social etiquettes and customs people in Chinatown obey reveal to me their deep attachment to the old culture. Chinatown is without doubt an interesting place. I am sure I will continue patronizing Chinatown businesses, working in organizations that strive to preserve Chinatown, and studying Chinatown at large.

### 我和華埠 - 周家瑜

我一直對華埠有一種複雜的感覺。一方面，我不能否認滿街的垃圾有時讓我不願走在街上，一些老舊的餐廳讓我對食品安全略有擔心，在超市聽到的無名粵語歌也常常令我恍惚。但另一方面，這裡的食物總是讓我想起家的味道，而在這裡的人們給予對方的善意是我在5歲時搬遷到一個大城市後便沒有再經歷過的事情。作為來自中國的95後，華埠看起來既陌生又熟悉。它的外觀像是20世紀中葉的審美努力表達「東方」這個印象的產物，很難在21世紀的中國找到和它有相似之處的建築群。然而，華埠的居民所遵守的傳統，社會禮儀和風俗習慣依然向我揭示了他們對舊文化的深刻依戀。華埠無疑是一個有趣的地方。我相信我會繼續探索華埠的美食，在致力於保護華埠組織工作，並繼續學習華埠的文化。

## My Splendid City - Yunshi Yang

My time at Northeast High School has given me valuable insights into their way of teaching students English. Originally, I thought the classrooms and schedules would resemble the ones in China. Instead, here, you need to get up and walk to another classroom for your next class. In China, you're required to sit in the same classroom for the entire school year—one room for all. I used to think that China and America had the same pedagogical approaches. Not until my junior year in high school when I found out their grading system is based on credits rather than classifying classes into two categories such as liberal arts and science. It's a huge difference in education when it comes to comparing America and China.



In America, we're free to select our own classes based on our interests, but in China, everything is already set in stone for you. American high schools have different levels of curriculums, such as regular and advanced classes. Freshmen and Sophomores need to finish required courses before proceeding onto AP courses during the junior and senior year. Required courses include English, Math, Science, Social Science, and Art, as well as SAT courses, advanced courses like AP, and University elective courses requiring a combination of lectures and spending free time studying, as well as assignments/labs. Throughout these processes and adjustments, it gives high school students an insight into college life, which is valuable preparation for higher education. I came from knowing little to nothing to essentially a sudden realization; I've learned so much throughout this process.

I also learned about social dynamics at American high school. Students here are mature and open, and their learning style is carefree because they can choose their own courses. Our school would distribute lockers to students because during the winters, they would need to put away their heavy textbooks and coats. Secondly, they offer free lunches. We have several lunch lines: salad, fries and pizzas, main courses and such. Milk and fruits are also offered for the intended purpose of nutritional balance.

If you're bored, where should you go? As someone who lives in North-east Philly, my first choice would be Chinatown. All I have to do is take my local bus to the Frankford station, then take the subway to 11th street station. Yes, it's the place we're most familiar with – the famous Friendship Gate carved with the four Chinese characters “Philadelphia Chinatown.” Here, I see the language I am most familiar with.

Whenever a holiday is right around the corner, the streets here become extraordinarily festive. The variety of products is bedazzling; the pervasive aroma of authentic Chinese foods always catches me off guard. The streets are flooded with people laughing and bantering. The younger generations are having fun while hanging out with their friends as they're showering under the sunlight—what an amazing feeling! Kids are active and moving around a lot, craving their favorite foods.

My favorite holiday is the mid-autumn festival, because on this day, the streets are overflowing with different activities, like a huge supermarket in action. The many activities include lion dances, Chinese opera, martial arts, tai chi, music, games, and arts and crafts such as face masks, fan making, origami or paper folding, cutting paper arts, tangram and pinwheel, ink printing, painting face masks, lanterns, calligraphy and lantern riddles. These allow one to truly immerse oneself into the vibrant Chinese culture. It brings me to a realization that it has already been five thousand years of history, compared to America's few hundred years. Nevertheless, I'm proud to be a part of this city, because this city's nicknamed the “city of brotherly love.” Not only because everyone is nice to each other, but also because this city is one of America's oldest and most historic cities! When the night arrives, as we admire the full moon, I notice the moon resembles a clean piece of jade plate, hanging in the dark sky, like a black curtain that is about to be unveiled; the people who are celebrating this holiday are like magnets, attracted to each other, laughing with each other. At this moment, I'm really thankful for those including volunteers- who helped me.

Not long ago, I went to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, which is America's third largest art museum. I was pleasantly surprised to find Chinese artifacts there. I was able to see Tang Dynasty's statue of Guanyin and ZhiHua Temple's Wanfuge Well. The art museum also collected American furniture, statues, and sorts of handmade crafts, etc. At that point, I was able to feel the history of the two countries' cultures. It let me learn deeply about a lot of things. I love what this city has given me.

## 《燦爛的城市》 - 楊韻詩

在冰天雪地的早上，鳥兒在窗外呼叫著：“快看，快看，雪兒像棉花飄落下來，又會是怎樣的景色呢？”我在窗口眺望著。熱鬧的大街瞬間變的有點遜色。我突然回味起昨晚甘旨肥濃的‘Philly Cheesesteak’。這是什麼？‘Philly Cheesesteak’是費城著名的牛肉奶酪三明治。如今的‘Philly Cheesesteak’早已紅遍大街小巷，在美國其他城市也能輕易品嚐。一回想起那牛肉三明治，它那片片薄薄的牛里脊肉，配上洋蔥，蘑菇等配料，再加上香濃酪起司，夾入長條麵包內。哇，卻美味可口。我想到這就像火箭似的直蹦起床。在出門的時候天空的味道給人的感覺就像你親臨山水之間，與世隔絕，內心平靜無波，呼吸平穩，吸的每口氣都是新鮮的。這裡的天空好清澈，好藍。在等巴士的瞬間，讓我想起我剛到美國的情景。

美國費城東北區陪伴了我4年了，不知不覺轉眼過去了。想起我所讀的東北區高中那裡有很好學習英文的平台，讓我受益匪淺。原本以為這裡的教室會和中國的一樣。原來美國這裡每一節課打鈴後都要走去下一個教室等上課。每一節課都會走去不同的教室和你會遇到不同班級同學們。稱之‘走堂’。不像中國固定一個教室，每一節課都不用走來走去，規定一個班，稱之‘坐堂’。然而當時懂的我以為教學方式也會和中國如出一轍。直到快高三的時候才弄懂美國高中不分文理科，而是採用大學的管理體制-學分制。在這裡可以說美國高中教學和中國教學大相徑庭。為什麼這樣說呢？因為美國是自由的國家，學生自由選課，學校幫你分配，可是在完成學分的基礎上。美國是可以選課的，我們中國一般是固定的。美國高中課程分為基礎課程、高級課程兩個部分。高一、高二完成規定美國高中基礎課程及學分，高二下及高三選修AP高級課程。基礎課程包括英語、數學、科學、社會科學、藝術等；同時融入SAT課程，高級課程：即為AP課程，是大學先修課程，課堂學習結合大量的課後練習，還要完成實驗/實踐作業。通過這樣的過渡及調整，使學生對於日後的大學學習環境有了實質的了解，更好地為下一階段的學習做好充分準備。像我所言在美國高中採取學分制，一般修讀18-23個學分就可以獲得美國高中畢業證書。這樣從無知慢慢從中學習，到後來的恍然大悟的一個過程吧。從中吸取經驗，讓自己未來的路變得更好。

我想分享下我在美國高中的所見，在美國高中生們都特別成熟和開放，他們學習是輕鬆式的。他們可以選擇自己喜歡的選修課。好的是學校還會分配學生們衣櫃，因為冬天孩子們的羽絨衣服和厚厚的教科書都要地方安置。還有截然不同的是美國午餐是免費提供的。這裡午餐分幾條線排隊，有專拿沙拉的隊伍，或薯條披薩，主食的等等這類午餐。它還提供牛奶，水果。營養平衡。

如果悶了，要去哪？住在費城東北區的我，通常問自己，有什麼地方好去呢？當然去熱鬧的唐人街啦。沒錯，你只需乘坐你附近的巴士去Frankford總站乘坐地鐵，你就會去到11街，那就是我們同聲連氣熟悉的地方唐人街。是的，這裡有塊很古典的牌坊，上面刻著費城華埠。你會看到熟悉的語言。每到節假日來臨，這裡一大清早，大街上便熱鬧非凡。那琳瑯滿目的商品，令人眼花繚亂、目不暇接；那



撲鼻而來的香味，令人回味無窮。街上人流如潮，人人笑容滿面。年輕人三個一夥，五個一群地走在大街上。他們戴著MP3，聽著音樂，情不自禁地跟著音樂唱了起來。也有的年輕人在說說笑笑，街上一直迴盪著他們的笑聲，沐浴著那溫暖的

陽光，真是舒服極了！孩子們蹦蹦跳跳的，特別貪吃。

我最喜歡就是中秋節了，因為中秋節這天，去唐人街很多人走上街頭參加各種活動，整個城市像一個大大的菜市場熱鬧極了。活動多種多樣，包括：舞獅、京劇、武術、太極、音樂、舞蹈、遊戲，還有各種手工藝製作，如製作臉譜、製作扇子、摺紙、剪紙、製作七巧板和風車、印刷、畫臉譜、燈籠、書法、燈謎、製作棉花糖等，無一不滲透著中華傳統文化。讓我意識到中國文化博大精深，已有五千年曆史了，而美國卻只有幾百年曆史。但是我驕傲我是這座城市的一份子，因為這座城市別稱“友愛之城”。每一個人都很好，而且是美國最老、最具歷史意義的城市之一啦！到了晚上，賞月的時候，月亮像一個潔白的玉盤、遙掛在夜空中；中秋節的夜空裡，像一層即將揭開的黑黑的帷幕、籠罩著高興的人們；中秋節的人們，像一塊塊歡悅的磁石，互相吸引、互相歡悅。此時我很感謝這座城市裡給予幫助過我的人，這裡有一幫熱心的義工幫你解決問題。我愛這座城市。

這是我眼中描述的城市。這裡有世界最著名的大鐘之一自由鐘。這是費城的象徵，更是美國自由精神的象徵，是美國人的驕傲。不久前我去了藝術博物館，這是一幢古希臘神廟式建築，號稱全美第三大美術館。位於費城市區西北26街和富蘭克林公園大道交叉處。印象深刻的是我下馬看花。噢，這裡有中國文物？彷彿看到了唐代觀音像和智化寺中的萬佛閣藻井。阿彌陀佛。博物館內還收藏著美國家具、雕刻、手工藝品等等之類文物。此時的我深刻感受到兩國歷史彼此的文化和時間的演變。真是瞬息萬變。讓我學識豐富到很多新事物，我愛這座城市所給予我的。



# “Chinatown” and “Being Chinese”

By Xueying

I used to be really passionate about putting myself out there and serving the Chinese community, I interviewed many people. There are first generation Chinese immigrants who have been living here for years, there are high school students who came here with their parents as new immigrants, there are undocumented immigrants who work hard to pay off their debts, and there also Chinese people who were born in the United States. I asked them the same question: “What does Chinatown mean to you?” Responses vary, but they can all be summarized in one common sentence: “Chinatown is my home.”

In the process, I began to think more deeply about what Chinatown means to me.

At the beginning of 2014, I, as someone who was born in the United States and grew up in China, returned to this so-called “homeland” for the first time. I had no feeling of connection with this country whatsoever—all I had was confusion and fears of what might happen in the future. Moving back would mean leaving my comfort zone, something that I had been used to for so long. I could no longer walk to school with my friends in the mornings and leave with them after school dismissals, I could no longer hangout with my friends over the weekends. More importantly, moving would mean that I would have to abandon my secret spots, places of comfort for when I needed silence and solitude. Facing the mother I had not lived with for 9 years, along with an unfamiliar language—even to a person like me, capable of easily adapting to new environments, could not escape the stress and loneliness it had brought me. When I first came to America, talking to friends and classmates back-to-back in China became my only relief regardless of how much pressure I'm under and how upset I was. Gradually, under the high pressure of language barriers, school, and life I slowly begin to think how great would it be if I haven't been back to China. If I had not returned to China I wouldn't have a language barrier. I would also have had my own friend group and a better high school education, I could even be like other American-born Chinese assimilating into society perfectly, becoming a “real” American.

So I began dissenting my identity of being a Chinese person – not only because I had trouble adjusting to American society, but also because of the American stereotypes against Chinese people. They made me feel as if I actually were as bad as they described us to be. When I heard about Chinese people shouting in public spaces, I would frown and escape from this situation; when I saw Chinese people causing trouble, I would look down and walk away quietly. Walking by the neighborhoods where they lived, the trash and the smell in the air brought shame to me. So I hated Chinatown, a place of “Chinese senses.”

I remained in this repressed and depressed state for nearly a year. But in the summer of 2015, my feelings began to change when I participated in Asian Americans United's Chinese Youth Organizing Project Summer program. To be honest, I signed up thinking, "summer break is so long and boring, and I just need to find something to do", but also with the hopes that I could learn a little more about this city and land. I did not expect that summer to become a turning point for my life.

In this program, I learned about the struggles of early immigrants bringing them to where they are now, step by step—from having little to nothing to having homes and families, just because they wanted to create a better future for their children, their family members, and themselves. They began working from the bottom of the pyramid, hard labor, dirty work, and slave wages, having to go through their life without insurance while burdened by the expectations from their family members and the threat of being deported back to China. They've overcome innumerable obstacles and struggles in order to reach what they have today. Today's society may seem peaceful on the outside, yet many still discriminate against the minority groups and especially towards to the colored people.



This history and reality shocked me. I now know the reason why my Mother would send me back to China, to learn Chinese, to understand the culture, and to eventually end up loving this country. Because she wanted me to get to know myself better, and to really understand who I really am.

The stereotypes and discrimination still exist, so we shouldn't be avoiding them because we have self-esteem issues. We need to change their opinions and stand up for ourselves. I, as a Chinese American, someone who understands Chinese culture, speaks fluent Chinese, understands the history behind Chinese Americans, who can speak and understand English, who can communicate with this society – with all these abilities, I can be the bridge between the Chinatown and the American society to let our voices be heard. This is why I have chosen to dedicate myself to serving the Chinese community to this day.

“What does Chinatown mean to you?”

I think I have my answer now: To me, Chinatown is not only my home, but also a reminder to me that I am Chinese and proud.

## “中國城”和“中國人”

雪瀛 筆

在我曾經抱著十萬分的熱情投身在為華人社區服務的那段時間，我採訪過很多的人，有來美許多年的老華人，有跟著父母新移民來的高中生，有偷渡來還在辛苦還債的勞作者，也有許多從小就出生在這裡的華裔。我問他們：“中國城對你們而言，是一個怎樣的的存在？”我收到了各式各樣的回答，但歸根到底都是同樣的一句話——

“中國城，是家。”

於是在這過程中，我突然開始思考：那麼於我而言，中國城，是什麼地方？

2014年年初，出生在美國但在中國長大的我時隔多年回到美國這片土地，我並沒有人們所謂的回歸故土的親切，心中只有無數對於未來的迷惘和惶恐。離開自己已經習慣了許久的舒適圈，沒有一起上學一起回家一起嬉鬧的同學，沒有周末可以一起出門喝茶看書的朋友，甚至連可以一個人到處散心的地方都沒有。面對分隔九年多未生活在一起的母親，面對不理解的語言和完全不熟悉的陌生環境，面對國內人對於自己出了國彷彿是來鍍層金的沉重的期待，讓即使是一直能夠快速適應新環境的我，都倍感壓力和孤獨。剛來美國的那段時間，與國內的朋友同學聊天成為了我的慰藉，無論受到什麼樣的壓力，遭遇到什麼樣的委屈，都選擇跟國內的同學朋友傾訴。但漸漸地，在面臨語言、學習和生活的高壓之下，我萌生了“如果當初我沒有回中國那該有多好”的想法：如果當初我沒有回中國，那現在我就沒有語言的顧慮，我也有我自己的朋友圈，或許我可以去一個更好的高中接受更好的教育，甚至我可以像其他出生在本地的American Born Chinese（美籍華裔）一樣完美的融入進這個社會，成為一個地地道道的美國人——那……該有多好？

於是我慢慢開始厭惡自己的中國人的身份——不僅僅是因為“中國人”的身份讓我無所適從，同時，美國社會對於中國人負面的刻板印象讓我更加難以接受如此“難堪”的自己。聽見有中國人在公共場合大聲喧嘩吵鬧我會緊皺眉頭趕緊跑開；看見有中國人在不講道理的無理取鬧時我也會低下頭裝作什麼都沒有看到；經過中國人居多的區域，那些隨地散落的垃圾和瀰漫在空氣中的臭味，讓我感覺丟人萬分——所以，我討厭這個充滿了中國氣息的“中國城”。

這樣壓抑的狀態維持了將近整整一年。而心態開始發生轉變，讓我和這座小小的城建立起聯繫，是發生在2015年的暑期，我參加了亞裔聯合會華人青少年組織會的暑期項目。這麼多年過去了，說句實在話，當初報名多少是抱了些“假期那麼長好無聊就找點事情做做”的心態去報的名，但也多少希望自己能或多或少的更了解這座城市這片土地。沒想到的是，這個暑假，成為我心靈亦是我人生的轉折點。

在這個項目裡，我了解了初代移民來到美國的辛酸歷史，了解到他們是如何一步一步、一點一滴的在這裡成家立業，為了能讓自己的孩子，自己的其他家人過上更好的生活，背負著全家上下幾口人的期待，背井離鄉來到陌生的地方，做著社會最底層、最辛苦、最髒的工作，賺著屈指可數的零錢，還要頂著無身份無保險沒有權利沒有任何保障的生活和被移民局搜查被遣送回國再也無法入境的危險，一路披荊斬棘才有了今天。即使是在看似和平安詳的今天，這社會骨子裡帶著的對有色人種、少數群體的歧視和偏見仍然存在。



這些歷史，這些現實，深深地震撼到了我。而此時此刻我才明白，當初我的母親送我回中國，讓我學會中文，讓我了解中國文化，甚至讓我深深的熱愛中國這片土地，是為了讓我深刻的認識自己，我究竟是誰。

那些所謂的刻板印象始終存在，我們卻不應該為了所謂的面子和自尊去逃避，而應該為了打破這樣的刻板印象，勇於站起來面對和抗爭。而我，身為一個華裔，一個了解中國文化，了解中國語言，了解中國歷史的美籍華裔，一個擁有身份優勢，懂得說英語，可以和社會溝通的美籍華裔，我力所能及的，就是成為中國城和美國社會的橋樑，讓所有人聽到我們的聲音。

這就是我選擇投身華人社區工作，一直堅持為在美華人服務至今的原因。

“中国城对于你而言，是一个怎样的存在？”

此时此刻，我想我已有了答案：

“中国城对我而言，不仅仅是家，它更多的是在提醒我，我是一个中国人。”

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