SJSU INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

PIECES OF US

SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

SJSU | INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

Love You~!







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Memories are the Best Nutrition

by Mai Saito

Memories come back to us in many forms:
the feel of a touch, the sights we see, an aroma we sense,
the sounds we hear, and the tastes we eat.

Since we unknowingly connect what we are doing now with what we did in the past, I believe that memories have more invisible and boundless power than we actually know.

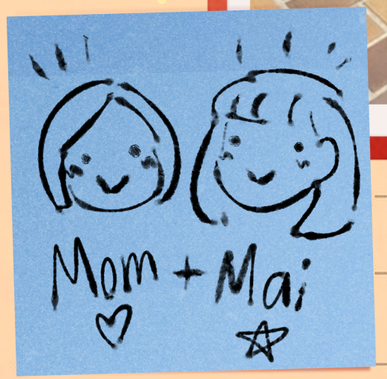
In my culture, we have a word, Ofukuro no Aji, which literally means mother's taste which refers to home-cooked meals. As you all know, sushi, ramen, and tempura are globally recognized as Japanese dishes. However, the word does not describe these sorts of dishes but rather reminds us of the tastes that have passed down from generation to generation. The best example of the term could be miso soup, which varies in taste and preparation depending on the family tradition.

At the beginning of the semester, I got a booster shot, and sure enough, the heaviest sickness ever made me emotionally next to the boundaries of a death, which was one of the worst times in my life. I could do nothing but only be stuck in my bed for about 48 hours. It surely made me struggle to survive without Kasujiru, a soup made with Japanese sake lees which my mother has always cooked for me when I get sick. As you can guess, this soup meant to me as my Ofukuro no Aji.

While enduring shivering and sluggishness in my bed, I sensed that my memories came back to me frequently when I was facing an issue with loneliness rather than having a good time with family or friends. At the same time, my memory of the taste of Kasujiru gives me the energy to overcome the terrible times when life goes wrong.

The time spent in the I-House and San Jose is just a flash, but with tons of memories, including both totally opposite times of a delightful and near-death. Yet, it does not matter because all of the time I spent here definitely nurtured me and will continue to be part of my body in the future.





Kasujiru



Mai (Right) and Mom (Left)
at Mai's High School Graduation!

THE RAS AS COFFEE ORDERS:

AN HONEST REVIEW BY PAUL JUNVER SORIANO

Two of my favorite things in the world are coffee and analyzing people. I guess I love my fellow RAs as well. So, let me combine all my interests into one post. This review is meant to give you my perspective on my team, and how I see them as coffee orders. No RA was harmed in the creation of this post (not yet – they might harm me after they read this).



AMERICANO

Americano is just espresso with hot water. This drink is perfect for Harkiret because he always watches his calorie count. However, you can always rely on an americano to do its job. People who love Americanos love the simple things in life. Plus, in this way, Harkiret can say he's American



ICED SUGAR FREE VANILLA LATTE WITH ALMOND MILK AND TWO EXTRA SHOTS OF ESPRESSO

This drink is not for the faint of heart. She's strong, she's bold, and as you can tell from the order, she's also very particular. You need to have gone through hell and back to be ordering this coffee. This coffee gives you tons of energy though. It's a good order for a fun day (or night).

COFFEE FROM A POT

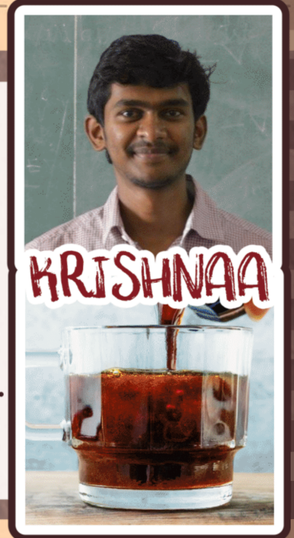
Julia is your classic cup of Joe. As your typical cup of coffee, this drink is one of the things that get you going in the morning, literally – she wakes me up every morning so we can go to the gym. This coffee is also very versatile; she can be creamy, sweet, both, or black. I think Julia likes it black.





MATCHA FRAPPE

This drink represents exquisite taste. Everyone loves matcha, and everyone loves frappé. It's a refreshing drink, and its earthy green tones look very cute for an Instagram post. Though you do get a hint of bitterness from the matcha sometimes, it still leaves a sweet taste in your mouth.

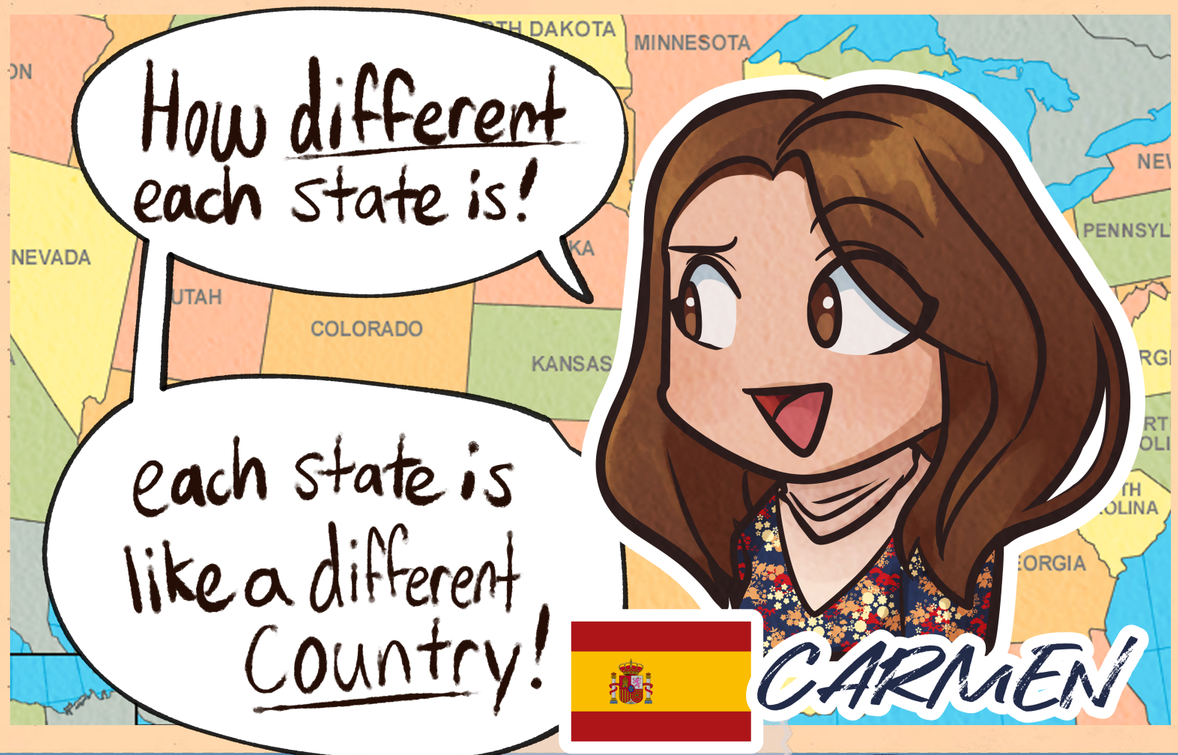


REDEYE

I love this drink. You would think it's your typical cup of coffee and then – boom! The shot of espresso sneaks up on you and you're caffeinated. Krishnaa surprises me, like this drink, because he has strong ideas, but you won't know until you see them in action. This drink feels mysterious, just like him.

How has AMERICA surprised you?

by Emilie Ramirez







A Monologue

by Julia Wise

China is a communist country. It has the largest population in the world, with over 1.3 billion people. Sure, China might be a country you want to visit. People travel to China for tourism, business, sports, and the arts.

But there is an issue in China that I am curious about.
It has to do with gender.

I have so many questions.
“Why have so many girls been abandoned by their parents?”
“Why do Chinese couples value boys more than girls?”
And “Why have so many girls ended up in orphanages?”

Have you ever heard of the one-child policy rule?
It was introduced in 1980. The one-child policy limited Chinese households to one child. As the years passed, the government decided that families were allowed to have a second child, but only if the first child was a girl.

Many Chinese families value boys more than girls because they believe sons will carry on the family's traditional name and will provide support to their older parents. But when a daughter gets married, she is expected to leave her parents to take care of her husband’s family.

This is what I’m talking about. Older parents don't want to be left alone and have no one to take care of them.
So when couples are young, they try to have a son, instead of a daughter.
If the first child is a girl, they just abandon her and try again.....



Julia (Left) and her best friend (Right) at the new Orphanage. Their drawings are hung up behind their beds.



Julia (Right) and Miss Wu (Left) standing in the old orphanage when she was visiting with her new family.

But I Always Thought That I'd See You Again

by Maiah Cast

Looking back on my childhood, there was always one constant in my life- my cousin Sophia. She was the closest thing I had to a sister. We did everything under the sun together. We went through journeys alongside our favorite book heroes and watched as Barbie took another adventure.

She was always kind, and always interested in whatever I had to say. She never judged people based on what music they listened to or hobbies. She gave every ounce of her energy and attention to every person she spoke to; she was simply the best person to aspire to be, and then I lost her to a car crash.

It felt as if my whole world stopped. Everything around me slowed down and the only thing running through my mind was the last time we were together, and why did it have to be her? Why did she have to leave so soon? We were together four months ago and she had her whole life ahead of her, and the whole world to experience, but it was cut short.

You never expect to lose the person you were closest to growing up. It can be a strange and visceral experience in a person's life. The second you hear the news, it feels as if your whole world crumbles down around you, and you're left in the ashes trying to piece everything back together again- but you can't.

The only thing that passes through your mind is the memories. The opportunities you had to experience their joy and their personhood. That's the key to dealing with loss, looking at the times when you were most happy.

While it's the hardest thing for me to learn how to deal with, I always look back fondly on the stupid nicknames we made for the boys we liked and the countless sleepovers where we would rewatch movies scenes over and over again. I'll especially cherish the moments when I was at my lowest, and she was there for me, like she always was.

I wouldn't be who I am today without her.
She is integral to my story, to who I am as a person.
I don't think I will ever truly be done grieving for her,
but I will try my hardest to live a life that would make her proud,
to represent the legacy she has left.



Maiah (Left) and Sophia (Right).

Carmen Calzada Diez's
CALIFORNIA LANDMARK WORDSEARCH

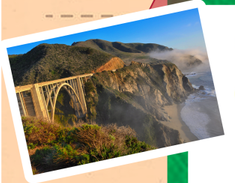


Golden Gate Bridge
Hollywood
Yosemite
Joshua Tree
Sequoia

Kings Canyon
Big Sur
Channel Islands
Lake Tahoe
Death Valley

Alcatraz
McWay Falls
Lombard Street
Rodeo Drives









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Home

by Allison Scott





Home can mean a lot of different things.
It can feel a lot of different ways.
To me, home is where I feel the most comfortable and at peace.
Home is not a specific physical place for me,
although I do feel at home at my parent's house.
I also feel at home with some of my friends and in the I-House.
Home can be described as the warmest place in the middle of winter,
where I will retreat when I am feeling at battle with myself and others.
It feels like jumping into the lake on a hot summer day.
It feels like taking a hot shower after going for a run.

I love to be at home.
Sometimes, I miss my house,
with my parents and siblings in it.
Other times I miss people who
made me feel warm
and like I could do anything.
I feel at peace with them.
There's so many places and people I call home.
I feel at home at the beach,
I feel at home when eating good food,
I feel at home while listening to music.
Home is a feeling, it's a feeling of peace.



A Message From the Director of the House

Leann Cherkasky Makhni

Scrapbooking – it's become a new keyword that I frequently see in applications written by prospective residents as they describe their Hobbies and Interests. While scrapbooking has been done for generations, I am seeing a recent revival among college students. Student Council now has a Scrapbooking club, which offers various coordinated activities where residents come together to document their memories. I recently enjoyed lunch in the Dining Room while a couple of residents were relaxing by pasting photos and writing captions in their albums.

It was fitting that Allison Scott, RA Coordinator of this newsletter, suggested a Scrapbooking theme. As always, it's fun to see how residents express themselves from heartfelt loss to coffee-based representations of the personalities of the RA team, and from life-changing adoption to experiences across America.



Remember to stay connected to I-House and share your memories, update us on where in the world you are, and what life-changing events you are experiencing.

ihouse@sjsu.edu
I love to hear from former residents!

Photos Provided by Abraham Mathew

CREDITS



Maiah Cast
Writer



Mai Saito
Writer



Paul Junver Soriano
Writer



Julia Wise
Writer



Emilie Ramirez
Writer
&
Layout



Carmen Calzada Diez
Crossword Maker



Allison Scott
Writer
&
Newletter Supervisor



Abraham Mathew
Photographer



Leann Cherkasky Makhni
Writer
&
Editor

Thank you for reading our news letter!








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TOUR
HOME TO U.S. AND
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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Spring 2022