



美國華聯商會

Peninsula Chinese Business Association

50 Victoria Avenue Suite 208, Millbrae CA 94030

November 1, 2020

Dear Members and Friends:

If you've read my previous newsletters, you may know I love storytelling. I use stories for inspiration and motivation because the lessons you learn from them are easier to remember. Interestingly, not everyone has the same point-of-view. Whenever I ask my students to evaluate what they learned from a story, they all have different takeaways. Let's see what learnings you come away with after reading the following story:

A Daughter took her Mother to an upscale restaurant for dinner to celebrate her 80th birthday. It is a formal attire restaurant and does not cater to underage children. The quiet ambiance is designed for private conversations. The manager greeted the ladies and guided them to a corner table. On this night, the diners were mostly middle-age and senior couples.

The Mother is old and weak. While eating, she dropped food, drooled, and stained her dress. Her Daughter patiently wiped her mother's mouth. The manager stood nearby ready to help, though not because he was concerned about the Mother, but because he was worried any surprises would disturb other diners. People watched them in disgust while the Daughter was calm and feeling unembarrassed. She only focused on making sure her Mother was having a good time.

After dinner, the Daughter quietly took her Mother to the washroom, wiped the food particles, removed the stains, combed her hair, topped up her lipstick, and firmly fitted her glasses. When they came out, the entire restaurant was watching them in dead silence, not able to grasp how someone could embarrass themselves publicly like that.

The Daughter settled the bill and started walking out with her Mother. Halfway to the door, in the middle of the restaurant, the old lady stopped, and in front of the other diners called out to her Daughter with her shaky voice and asked:

Mother: *Sweetheart, don't you think you left something behind?*

Daughter: *No, Mom, I did not*

Mother repeated: *Yes, you did*

Daughter: *No, Mom, I checked already. Let's go home. It's getting late, it's past your bedtime.*

Mother: *Yes, dear, you left a lesson for every Daughter and hope for every Mother.*

The Daughter felt embarrassed, wanting to leave the restaurant right away. But the diners' responded by bobbing their heads and smiling. One couple even stood up to show their respect.

So, what did you take away from this story? If you are still a daughter, will you do more for your mother? Or if you are a mother, are you blessed with what your daughter is doing for you?

Best wishes,

Johnny DaRosa

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致：美國華聯商會會員及朋友們，

如果大家有閱讀我的“每月通訊”，你可能會知道我喜歡說故事。因為故事能精簡有力的給人傳遞訊息，令讀者容易受到啟發及激發動力。而且令我感到有趣的是，並非每個人對同一故事，都會有相同的感受及領悟。我曾要求每一位學生對同一個故事，作出閱後評論，他們都有著不同的見解及收獲。你想印證我的說法嗎？讀讀以下故事，看你有何得著。

一位女兒挽著母親，踏入一間高格調餐廳，以慶祝她的 80 歲生日。餐廳經理對她們熱情款待，並安排她們坐在轉角處的一張桌子。餐廳並不招待孩童，顧客們大都是中年人或年老夫婦。餐廳安靜幽雅的氣氛，特別適合私人談話。

老太太看來有點虛弱，進餐時會不小心掉下食物、唾沫，最終弄污了衣服。女兒並沒有怪責她，只是耐心的為媽媽清理咀角。餐廳經理看在眼裡，帶點緊張的站在老太的不遠處，準備隨時候命。他並非擔心老太的健康，只是深怕萬一老太出亂子，便會打擾其他食客。老太的窘境，也即時引起其他食客的注意，大家紛紛對她們投以厭惡的目光。老太的女兒也感受到他們的不友善，但仍然從容的在照顧媽媽。她只想專心一意令媽媽渡過一個愉快的晚上，一個別具意義的日子，媽媽的 80 歲壽辰。

用餐後，女兒溫柔的挽著母親進入洗手間。女兒為媽媽清理衣服上的食物殘渣及污漬，再細心的為她梳理頭髮、戴上眼鏡，然後為她塗上淡紅色的口紅，她想媽媽看來精神飽滿一些。女兒望向鏡中在微笑的媽媽，令她突然想起，兒時第一次參加舞蹈比賽，媽媽也為她塗口紅....「來，塗這個口紅，看你多漂亮啊！」媽媽開懷大笑的說。

當母女回到餐桌，餐廳的氣氛已變得死寂。眾人只是默默的緊盯著兩人，就似是在無聲抗議，母女兩人怎麼可以在大庭廣眾下令自己如此尷尬？！

食客此時的反應，與餐廳高貴優雅的格調，更顯得格格不入。

女兒結賬後，兩人準備離開餐廳。當她們步行至餐廳的中心點，老太突然停下脚步，

此舉又吸引了全場食客的注視。

然後，老太用帶點顫抖的聲音問女兒：「你沒有發現自己遺留了東西嗎？」

「媽媽，你放心，我沒有遺留什麼。」女兒答道

老太堅持說：「女兒，你實在有呢！」

女兒感到啼笑皆非，但仍然耐心的說：「媽，我已再三檢查過了，沒有什麼東西給留下。現在已經很晚了，我們該回家了吧。」

老太向女兒微微笑道：「乖女兒，你已經為每位女兒留下一課，更為每位母親留下了希望。」

女兒對於母親突如其來的說話，感到有點尷尬，她正想急步離開餐廳之際，本是沉默的眾多食客，卻對她點頭微笑，當中一對老夫婦更撐著拐杖站起來，以表示對她最大的敬意。

這個故事令你有得著嗎？有朋友說，這個故事令他想起反哺；雀鳥的反哺，是幼鳥成長後，懂得捕食餵養母鳥。人類的反哺，就是報親恩。如果你是一位女兒，你願意為母親付出更多嗎？又或者，作為一位母親，你會否為女兒曾為你付出過的而感到幸福？

祝福大家，

美國華聯商會 會長，

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二零二零年十一月一日

中文翻譯 Doris Wong