Pedestrian safety affects elders and children in Chinatown

BY YANXUAN LI

Traffic deaths for pedestrians and cyclists are the highest since 1990, according to a report released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. While Boston has a relatively good record on traffic safety compared to cities nationwide, there are still more than 20 fatalities and more than 200 serious injuries on the streets every year. Chinatown is one of the neighborhoods that sees the highest number of pedestrian injuries.

“This has been a concern for Chinatown for several years,” said Arthur Gossage, a Chinatown resident of 12 years and treasurer of the Chinatown Resident Association (CRA). Gossage said the CRA wrote a support letter to Boston planner for Chinatown to be a part of a traffic calming program. Two 2016 crashes referenced in the letter included one pedestrian who was dragged by a car into Dorchester from Chinatown, and a 2-year-old girl killed on Nassau Street by an ambulance.

The city has launched traffic calming and road traffic safety programs to help prevent fatal crashes. In 2015, Boston adopted the Vision Zero program, a road traffic safety program adopted by cities across the country. In 2017, Chinatown was chosen for the Neighborhood Slow Streets pilot, a traffic calming program under the Boston’s Vision Zero initiative. With the introduction of the program, the citywide speed limit was lowered to 25 mph. The city also added speed bumps on residential streets in Chinatown. However, not all Chinatown residents are satisfied with the implementation of the programs.

Cindy Liao, director of Little Panda, has heard many complaints about child pedestrian safety. “Our parents don’t feel safe when they walk their children to our centers,” she said. “For example, at some of the crosswalks in Tremont Street, where there are a lot of day care centers, we don’t even have school district signs there.”

Pedestrian injuries are one of the leading causes of unintentional injury death among Massachusetts children. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there were five pedestrian injury deaths per year among children 8 to 16 years of age from 2008 to 2012 in Massachusetts.

“People treat these residential streets as if they’re mini-highways to the actual highways,” said Jeena Hah, Asian Community Development Corp. program manager. The nonprofit developer helped organize community support for Vision Zero and Hah coordinates the program.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Tai Tung Village neighbors light Christmas tree

BY IVY HUANG

A Christmas tree lighting took place Dec. 7 at Tai Tung Village in Boston. Tai Tung Village manager Feng Cheong (front second right) and American Chinese Christian Educational and Social Services executive director Pasang Drolma (front right) took photos with residents. (Image courtesy of Ivy Huang.)


Residents donated food and clothing to the Pine Street Inn. This year, Boston Rescue Mission was added as a donation recipient, as it offers food and housing to low-income individuals.

ACCESS executive director Pasang Drolma said she hoped residents of Tai Tung Village could love each other, becoming a channel of love to the community.

The event featured singing and dance performances, along with snacks and hot tea for attendees. Craft activities were also held this year for children, allowing them to make their own Christmas trees and receive balloon animals.
Event Calendar

**Meditation retreat**
Saturday, Dec. 21
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
711 Concord Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

An English one-day meditation retreat will take place at Fo Guang Buddha Temple Boston. Register for $30 (including a vegetarian lunch) or visiting boston@itps.org.

**Amidabha chanting retreat**
Sunday, Dec. 22
10 a.m. to noon
711 Concord Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

The annual Amidabha chanting retreat will take place at Fo Guang Buddha Temple Boston. Register for free ($10 for a vegetarian lunch).

**Free meditation class**
Sundays, Thursdays
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
711 Concord Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

Free meditation classes will take place Sundays and Thursdays (7 a.m. to 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) at Boston Bodhi Meditation. People with limited mobility are welcome to join. For more information, call (781) 851-4620.

**Free legal clinic**
Every Monday
10 a.m. to noon
11 Dartmouth Street
Malden, MA 02148

Greater Boston Legal Services provides free legal counseling at ACDC’s Malden office at Room L4-L6. If you have legal questions on immigration, work, housing and more, you can meet a lawyer. For more information, call (781) 851-4620.

**Free Christmas meal**
Wednesday, Dec. 25
Noon to 2 p.m.
77 Salem Street
Malden, MA 02148

Bread of Life will serve a free Christmas meal at Malden High School. To volunteer, email info@breadoflifemalden.org or call (781) 397-0404.

**Chinese chat group**
Tuesdays
6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
677 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115

A Mandarin conversation group will meet at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Knege 201 on 2F.

**English classes for college or job training**
Monday, Dec. 30
9:45 a.m.
38 Ash Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

ACDC offers HB101 classes in English and Chinese. To make an appointment, call (617) 426-9492 x 0.

**Financial aid assistance**
Wednesday, Jan. 8
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111

Get free assistance on college planning and applying for financial aid towards higher education. Service offered in Mandarin, Cantonese and English. To make an appointment, call (617) 426-9492 x 0.

**The Chinatown Coalition meeting**
Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020
9:30 a.m.
38 Ash Street
Boston, MA 02111

The Chinatown Coalition meeting will take place at the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, 4F. The public is welcome to attend. For more information, visit tccboston.org.

**First-time homebuyer classes**
Jan. 10 to Dec. 20
9 a.m.
38 Oak Street
Boston, MA 02111

ACDC offers HB101 classes in English and Chinese. Each session is a nine-hour class over the course of a two-day weekend. Tuition is $50. Sign up for a workshop, graduate and receive a certificate, and become eligible for discounted mortgage products. Registration required, by calling (617) 482-2380 x 208 or 202, emailing CHOP@asiancd.org or visiting https://asiancd.org/hb101.

**Free immigration clinic**
Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020
Noon to 2 p.m.
1 City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02101

The Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Advancement offers free private immigration clinics at the Boston City Hall Room 806.

**Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Committee meeting**
Tuesday, Jan. 21
6 p.m.
90 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111

The Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Committee meeting will take place at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association.

**Chinese New Year celebration**
Jan. 24 to Jan. 26, 2020
9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
1 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02111

The 2020 Chinese New Year Celebration will take place at Fo Guang Buddha Temple Boston. Register for free ($10 for a vegetarian lunch).

**Chinese New Year parade**
Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
1 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02111

The annual lion dance parade celebrating Chinese New Year will begin from Phillips Square and parade through Chinatown. A cultural village with arts and crafts and Chinese calligraphy will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 90 Tyler Street.

**Quincy Lunar New Year celebration**
Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
316 Hancock Street
Quincy, MA 02171

The annual Lunar New Year Market and Food Festival will take place at North Quincy High School, featuring food, karaoke and cultural performances. For more information, visit www.quincylunarnewyear.com.

**LOOKING FOR A FULL TIME NANNY**
(Live in or Live out)

A two doctor Asian family in Brookline with 3 great kids, ages 14, 12 and 4 years old. Need help with mostly our youngest. Cooking, laundry, light cleaning, helping with bath time and bedtime.

Hours are Monday-Friday 7-10am 3-8pm and Saturday’s 8-11am.

Must speak English and be able to have a clear phone conversation.

Salary is negotiable.

Interested parties contact Susan at 212-765-7755.

**ADVERTISING DEADLINE** Classified Section today.
Ask Dr. Hang: What are the signs of suicidal thoughts in children?

BY HANG NGO, CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

There’s a research study at Boston University that found Chinese immigrant parents are less likely to notice suicidal thoughts in children. I am worried I might miss the signs in my own children. What can I do to notice those signs and to help my kids if they have suicidal thoughts or feelings?

Thank you for bringing up such a difficult topic. This something parents in the study by Cindy Lisa’s team were not able to do, likely due to stigma around suicide. Talking about feelings is already difficult for many immigrant Asian parents. Talking about suicidal thoughts and feelings is even more difficult, as many immigrant Chinese parents think it’s unlucky or shameful. However, it’s vital to face your feelings of discomfort to understand your child.

Suicidal thoughts or feelings are linked to depression. You may notice other signs of depression, such as sad mood, irritability, loss of pleasure or enjoyment of things they used to like, difficulties concentrating, appetite loss or overeating, sleeping too much or difficulties sleeping, and loss of interest or pleasure.

Direct and supportive conversation is best. If you see that your child is showing signs of depression, ask them directly about what’s going on for them and express your concern about suicidal thoughts. When you avoid talking about something difficult, your child learns that it is not OK to talk about difficult feelings. If your child is truly having suicidal thoughts, they may not tell you because they learned it is not OK to share.

Chinatown Community Land Trust celebrates row house preservation

BY YIMING ZHAO

This fall, the land trust acquired two row houses, which will be preserved as seven permanently affordable home ownership units.

Vaping ban lifted, new restrictions in place

BY YIMING ZHAO

The new regulation restricts licensed tobacco products. The new law signed by Governor Baker and the introduction of today’s regulations, we continue to prioritize actions that protect the public health,” said Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel. The first long-term study of the health impact of vaping was published Dec. 16 in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. The results show conclusively the use of e-cigarettes dramatically increases the risk of lung disease.

An education forum for college education took place Dec. 7 at Harvard University. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

Workshop promotes empathy in college admissions

BY LING-MEI WONG

An education forum for college education took place Dec. 7 at Harvard University, with about 100 attendees. Participants heard about successful college students, how to apply for financial aid and standardized testing. Brookline eighth grader Linda Li attended the forum with her mother Mary Chen. She said hearing students who shared their stories were successful and lucky, and made her think about what her passions are.

“I like movies,” Li said. “I’d like to be a director.”

Chinatown meeting roundup: TCC, CNC

BY LING-MEI WONG AND YIMING ZHAO

The Chinatown Coalition met Dec. 12 at Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center to share updates on ongoing community projects. Kyle Sullivan from the Asian Community Development Corporation gave updates on Parcel 12. The proposed project will consist of 168 residential units and a hotel with up to 200 keys. All of the residential units will be affordable, comprising 105 for rental and 63 for homeownership.

Hannah Fong from the Boston Transportation Department updated the committee on the Neighborhood Slow Streets project. The project is designed to calm traffic and improve street safety by district. If there are any concerns regarding public safety, Fong encouraged residents to call 311 to report the problem.


Jessica Brackenridge, Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy executive director, gave updates on the public park. A Chinatown public toilet at the Greenway broke ground in fall but hit a utility line underground, requiring a new site, he said. The Greenway will hold more hearings to identify another suitable site.

AT&T is seeking community support to install an antenna facility at 1 Nassau Street.

The Chinatown Community Land Trust hosted its annual meeting Dec. 12 at the Pao Arts Center to celebrate its accomplishments over the past year.

If there are any concerns regarding traffic and improve street safety by district, please call 911. Or bring your child to the emergency room if they commit suicide, please call 911. Or bring your child to the emergency room if they have suicidal thoughts or feelings, tell your child you are worried about them and you will take them to the doctor.

The doctor may refer your child to see a mental health professional, if needed. Treatment for depression and suicidality take time, as therapy for children usually includes sessions with their parents, so parents can learn how to help their children.

Keep doing what you are doing now: Learning about mental health issues and talking about what’s difficult. This is how you are going on the stigma in talking about suicide. This is how your kids will learn to talk about their difficult feelings and know you will be there for them.

If your child has an immediate plan to commit suicide, please call 911. Or bring your child to the emergency room for a safety evaluation.

This land trust acquired two row houses, which will be preserved as seven permanently affordable home ownership units.
Are you spending more and more of your time tending to your family member or close friend’s needs? It may start with driving your mother to get groceries or helping to sort through bills. Later, you may find yourself taking time off work to help prepare meals or go with her to the doctor. As our loved ones age, it’s likely a matter of when, not if, they will need our help. Nearly 44 million Americans—1 in 5 adults—are family caregivers for a relative or friend over age 50.1 According to a nationwide AARP study, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) are almost twice as likely to care for their elders than the general population.2 Respect for one’s elders is a value common to AAPIs; as is family togetherness, demonstrated by the fact that AAPIs are also twice as likely as Whites to live in households with at least two adult generations.3 Since two-thirds of AAPIs age 50 or older are immigrants, they may have traditional cultural expectations that can be a challenge to meet by their more Western acculturated children who are attempting to balance work-life with raising children of their own. AARP’s study found that the vast majority (73%) of AAPIs, more than any racial or ethnic group, believe that caring for parents is expected of them. The study found that AAPIs were more likely to take charge of caregiving for their elders: they are more likely to talk to doctors (54% vs. 36%), contribute financially (51% vs. 27%), and handle paper work or bills (41% vs. 33%) than the total population of the same age or compared to Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics.4 Caring for one’s loved ones as they age is one of the cultural ways AAPIs honor and show respect for their elders. This guide is a practical tool to help you care for them. You’ll find information, resources, and checklists to help you get organized and find the support that you might need. The guide provides five important actions for you to consider in the care of your loved one:

Start the conversation. Many people wait until a crisis occurs before they talk about their values and preferences, wishes for health care or details of their finances. If you wait until a fall, accident, or serious diagnosis, you may be forced to make important decisions without careful consideration.

Form your team. No one should try to approach the responsibilities of caregiving alone. While other family members are likely sources of support, don’t overlook friends, extended relatives and family associations, religious organizations, and culturally relevant social services as resources too.

Make a plan. Putting together a family caregiving plan now will help you respond more quickly and effectively should the need arise. It can also provide some peace of mind. A plan helps everyone get on the same page and keeps the focus on what’s best for your loved ones.

Find support. There will be many issues that arise during your caregiving experience that require additional information and resources. Don’t hesitate to reach out to organizations and professionals with experience in caring for older people.

Care for yourself. As a caregiver, it’s easy to forget about your own needs. Keeping up your energy and maintaining your health are critical in order to care for others. It’s just as important to make a plan to take care of yourself as it is to create a caregiving plan for others.

Caring for a family member or close friend is one of the most important roles you’ll play.
Each year 40 million family caregivers in the U.S. provide critical support to adults with a chronic, disabling, or otherwise serious health condition. AARP and the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) partnered to bring to light personal journeys of AAJA members or accounts of other Asian American and Pacific Islanders who have been impacted by caregiving for a loved one.

Chris Lee’s very personal essay, “Self-Care for the Secret Caregiver,” is about her secret struggle to care for her mother battling cancer. When her mother was diagnosed, she didn’t tell anyone and only admitted it much later to Chris when she let her accompany her to a doctor’s visit. Over a year later, it remains a secret, and Chris often tells others that her mother is helping her care for her young son, even though the bulk of time together is actually spent on her mom’s healthcare needs.

A couple of years ago, I became a parent. I went into the role of caregiving for an infant with joy and eager anticipation. Little did I know that soon, I would also be (much less joyously and not-at-all eagerly) caring for my mother, as well. I unwittingly became a member of the sandwich generation: responsible for bringing up their own children and caring for their aging parents.

I sometimes joke that it’s easier to care for a 2-year-old than for a 72-year-old, but it’s actually the truth. For one thing, you just can’t make an adult do what you want her to do. For another, not only are there various options for child care, but others know how hard it is and offer to help.

When your mother doesn’t even tell her sister or best friend she is sick, the burden of care (and worry) falls squarely on you.

It falls on me, her secret caregiver.

I let my mom tell her friends she spends so much time with me because she is helping out with my toddler. And while that is true some of the time, one look at our secret shared calendar would tell you that the bulk of our time together is for her healthcare needs.

Months flew by and my life changed dramatically to revolve around my mother instead of my child or my career. The words “self-care” hadn’t entered my mind because I was always worried about “Mom care” or “baby care” first.

One day, while I was waiting for my mother at the cancer center, I noticed a poster for a weekly caregivers support group meeting. I surreptitiously scheduled my mom’s next physical therapy session for the same time.

At the first session, I was grateful that I didn’t recognize anyone. I felt my burden being lifted as I walked into that room. I gave my secret to strangers whose experiences were so similar, that they did not feel like strangers at all. Listening to their stories made me realize that while my specific journey is unique, I am never alone on this path.

My mom wasn’t telling anyone what she was going through. It became my not telling anyone what I was going through.

The biggest piece of self-care I gave myself was permission to talk about my situation with specific friends. These people outside my extended family and my mother’s social circles allow me to talk openly, while honoring her wishes for privacy. Many people assume that when you get bad news, you should tell people: people you love and who love you so that they can support you.

My Mom comes from a generation and culture where bad news is kept close, so others aren’t needlessly hurt by it. She doesn’t want support from outside because she is used to being strong for herself.

Sometimes one must protect someone else’s secret out of respect, as well as out of love. Sometimes a secret is unwellcome, festering like a cancer. Sometimes its cure is simply to uncover it.

“Caring for a family member or close friend is one of the most important roles one can experience. It can be an extremely challenging and lonely experience as well. To be able to laugh together, to cry together and to be grateful together is important for AAPI communities to talk about and share our experiences with others. Let’s build our personal support network and let AARP help provide information and resources,” stated Daphne Kwok, AARP Vice President of Multicultural Leadership, Asian American and Pacific Islander Audience Strategy.

“Through AAJA’s partnership with AARP, we are able to highlight the complexities and challenges of caring for a loved one. This is one of many stories. We hope that these caregiving stories serve as an inspiration and support for other caregivers, and we thank AARP for continuing to provide information and resources for caregivers,” said Michelle Ye Hee Lee, AAJA President and Washington Post reporter.

An AARP study found that the vast majority (73%) of AAPIs, more than any racial or ethnic group, believe that caring for parents is expected of them. The study found that AAPIs were more likely to take charge of caregiving for their elders: they are more likely to talk to doctors, contribute financially, and handle paper work or bills than the total population of the same age.
AARP released its Grandparents Today National Survey highlighting the latest trends among grandparents in the United States. Since 2001, the number of grandparents has grown by 24%, from 56 million to 70 million. Four in ten grandparents work, contributing to their strength as a significant market force. The AARP survey revealed that while grandparents make important financial contributions to their grandchildren, they also share wisdom and guidance. Many say they relish giving advice on everything from health to education, thereby providing a moral compass as well as emotional and social support.

Grandparents also contribute to their grandchildren’s well-being by babysitting or as their primary caregivers. One in ten live in the same household as their grandchildren and babysit, and 5% of these grandparents provide their grandchildren’s primary care, according to the national representative sample.

Currently, one-third of grandparents surveyed have grandchildren of a different race or ethnicity than their own. In 2011, 77% of grandparents had identical-race grandchildren, but by 2018 that number had declined to 72%.

Grandparents who have a grandchild of a different race or ethnicity say it is important to help their grandchildren learn about the heritage they share. In addition, seven in ten make an effort to help their grandchildren learn about the heritage they do not share.

In contrast to former generations, today’s grandparents are more accepting of their grandchildren’s different sexualities as well, with a majority saying they would support an LGBT grandchild. A strong majority (73%) of the grandparents surveyed enjoy their role and rate their performance as high, up from 66% in 2011.

With four in ten grandparents in the workforce today, their busy schedules as well as the schedules of their children and grandchildren create the second largest barrier to spending time with their grandchildren. However, many feel it’s vital to connect with their grandchildren because it gives them a mental and emotional boost. To overcome time constraints, grandparents increasingly adopt new technologies, such as group texting and video chats. As grandparents’ use of new technologies increases, however, their use of phone calls to contact their grandchildren decreases. Only 46% say they reached out to their grandchildren by phone in 2018, while 70% did in 2011.

Other key findings of the research include:

- 94 percent of grandparents provide some sort of financial support to their grandchild(ren)
- 87 percent would accept an LGBT grandchild
- 34 percent have grandchildren of mixed or different race/ethnicity
- 71 percent say their health status is very good or excellent
- 89 percent say their relationships with their grandchild(ren) is good for their mental well-being
- 29 percent live more than 50 miles away from their closest child, up from 19 percent in 2011
- 11 percent have a grandchild living with them, consistent with 2011 results
- 5 percent of those in multigenerational households are primary caregivers of a grandchild living with them.

Just remember that the more emotional support grandparents and grandchildren give each other, the happier and healthier they all will be. One day, I look forward to being in the ranks of grandparents teaching and learning new things with my grandchildren.
For more AAPI 50+ resources, visit aarp.org/aapi

AAPIs 50+ are targets for fraudulent crimes

7 in 10 AAPI 50+ are

Visit aarp.org/aapi for resources on how you can protect yourself against fraud and financial crisis.

AARP has a dedicated Fraud Watch Network to help keep your community safe.

Sources:
Crazy talented Asian theater artists present this holiday season

BY LINDA CHIN

New Repertory Theatre will present “Oliver!” from Nov. 29 to Dec. 29, starring Ben Choi-Harris. (Image courtesy of Androw Brittain/Brilliant Pictures.)

In the Cambridge-Boston area, we’re blessed with an abundance of rising and veteran theater artists to grace our stages. In the last month alone, I’ve had the pleasure of seeing shows where crazy talented Asian theater artists age 12 to 80 are front and center. “Thumbelina” at the Loeb Drama Center; “Moby Dick” at the American Repertory Theater (ART) and the Loeb Drama Center; “Oliver!” at the New Repertory Theater run through December 2019.

In spring 2019, ART producer Diane Borger commissioned Harvard undergraduate student Julia Riew to write a holiday production. Riew chose to feature a female protagonist for “Thumbelina.” In “Oliver!” at the New Rep, actor Ben Choi-Harris, 12, leads a talented cast of young orphans, adult actors and Broadway veteran Austin Pendleton, who is almost seven decades his senior. “Oliver!” runs through Dec. 29, and is arguably holiday fare. An exception is a scene where a character is murdered by her abusive lover, which may frighten younger children.

Playwright Rosanna Alfaro’s play of five monologues, “Incredibly Annoying Women,” was read Nov. 18 by veteran actors, including legend Bobbie Steinbach, at Boston Playwrights Theatre.

It is scheduled for a reprise reading on April 16, 2020, as part of the We Are Cambridge Cultural Visionaries community gathering hosted by Cambridge Community Foundation. Alfaro was recently selected for the inaugural group of Cambridge Cultural Visionaries, one of 20 artistic and cultural leaders who is nationally known.

Mayor Walsh lights Chinatown tree

BY KAREN MAI

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh came to Phillips Square Dec. 8 to light the Chinatown Christmas tree. The festivities were hosted by the City of Boston and Chinatown Main Street. Two children’s performances featured the Josiah Quincy Elementary School orchestra and the Asian American Civic Association’s daycare Buds & Blossoms Early Education and Care Center.

Mayor Walsh lights Chinatown tree

BY KAREN MAI

Mayor Walsh lights Chinatown tree

BY JINGFEI CUI

Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition hosted its inaugural banquet “Growing our roots” Dec. 8 at Yong Yang. (Image courtesy of Shaina Lu)

Community voices support Little Saigon

BY ANNA ING

We sampled the million dollar maki ($13) with spicy yellowtail, tuna and salmon on the inside and outside of the maki. It had crunch from fried tempura, plenty of spicy mayo and avocado. Dragon ball ($12) was an avocado ball filled with raw tuna and salmon, roe, mango, cucumber, imitation crab meat and seaweed salad.

The dashi maki tamago omelette ($7) was seasoned just right with dashi while being lightly sweet, fluffy and moist. It is difficult to make well — Sugidama’s version was rolled to perfection.

A food aficionado: Sugidama

Sugidama Soba and Izakaya serves an extensive Japanese food menu, including housemade udon, yakitori and makimono. The bustling Davis Square eatery opened in 2016 and expanded earlier this year with Futago in Brookline.

Sugidama refers to a “cedar ball,” or cedar branches gathered in the shape of a ball, hung outside Japanese beer and sake establishments. As time passed, the branches turned brown,signaling the sake and beer were ready.

We started with the takoyaki ($6), six balls with octopus chunks and gooey centers. The takoyaki were topped with bonito shavings, along with drizzles of tonkatsu sauce and mayonnaise.

We sampled the million dollar maki ($13) with spicy yellowtail, tuna and salmon on the inside and outside of the maki.

Million dollar maki with spicy yellowtail, tuna and salmon on the inside and outside of the maki. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)