

“剑桥的孩子们”专栏

赛乐川 (Alexander Saich) 和 他的妈妈曾茵茵

— “剑桥的孩子们”跟踪采访 高青

2016 年初夏，我们剑桥中文学校的老学生赛乐川 (Alexander Saich) 的妈妈曾茵茵给我们剑桥中国文化中心董事会部分董事发来了邀请，邀请我们参加她为儿子赛乐川哈佛大学本科毕业在家里举办的大学毕业庆祝晚会。当我们来到赛乐川那充满艺术氛围的家时，已长成高大英俊帅小伙儿的赛乐川随妈妈曾茵茵热情地迎接我们这群客人。



(曾茵茵和儿子赛乐川合影于 2016 年哈佛大学毕业典礼会场)



(照片左起：纪虎民，赛乐川，曾茵茵，汤晓，高青，陶凯)

赛乐川一眼看到我们一行中曾经教过他多年中文的汤晓老师时，立刻主动走到汤老师面前，给汤老师一个真情的拥抱。汤老师看着这么有出息的学生，脸上洋溢着幸福的欢笑。



（赛乐川与汤晓老师）

赛乐川操着一口流利的中文与我们畅所欲言地聊着天。一同前来参加晚会的剑桥中国文化中心董事长纪虎民感慨万分地连连赞叹：“赛乐川教育得这么好，都是妈妈曾茵茵的功劳！曾茵茵不仅培养教育出了赛乐川这么出色的儿子，还用中国文化征服了一批美国孩子，哈佛大学的精英！”



（赛乐川与剑桥中国文化中心董事长纪虎民）

随着老纪的介绍，我注意到了，在赛乐川家晚会来宾中，有一群意气风发的阳光男孩，他们是赛乐川哈佛大学的同窗好友，是吃着赛乐川妈妈的美味饺子认识中国，喜爱中国，憧憬中国，准备八人结伴而行，跟着

赛乐川的妈妈，中国中央戏剧学院毕业的曾茵茵远赴中国，一个他们从未去过的陌生国土去施展抱负，创作拍摄电影。



（赛乐川与他的七个志同道合的哈佛同学）

也许人们会以为，赛乐川的父亲托尼·赛奇（Anthony SAICH）是国际著名中国问题专家、哈佛大学 Ash 民主治理和创新研究所主任、Daewoo 国际事务教授、亚洲项目和中国公共政策项目首席教授，母亲曾茵茵是生长在北京的才华横溢的戏剧艺术家，赛乐川能讲一口流利的汉语，能用中文写出长篇大论高水平文章，是理所当然的。其实不然！冰冻三尺，非一日之寒！若没有赛乐川的父母有意识的培养教育，数年如一日地坚持送孩子来我们剑桥中文学校学习中文，若没有赛乐川的父母在孩子的成长过程中不仅注重孩子的中文学习，同时也影响孩子对中国的关注和参与，赛乐川的羽毛一定不会像今天这样这么丰满，赛乐川的志向也一定不会像今天这样这么海阔天空，鹏程万里。

赛乐川的妈妈曾茵茵在儿子学习中国文化过程中到底起到了一个什么样的作用呢？受董事长纪虎民之托，我联系了曾茵茵。虽然茵茵在忙碌准备行囊，即将启程，率领今年刚从哈佛大学毕业的八个男孩（包括赛乐川）去中国拍电影的远行，她还是欣然答应了我的采访请求。在那个闷热的夏夜，我又来到了茵茵家，就聊聊怎么当妈妈的。

曾茵茵给我泡了壶淡雅适度，香气清悠的四川香茶“飘雪”后，我们的聊天开始了。

赛乐川是在荷兰出生的，五岁时随父母来到美国。一到美国波士顿，曾茵茵就四处探访，希望给孩子找一个最合适的中文学校。经口碑相传，曾茵茵带着儿子赛乐川和女儿赛因儿找到了北美第一所由大陆学人创办的波士顿剑桥中文学校。

他们在剑桥中文学校一待就是许多年。剑桥中文学校周末班由剑桥市迁址到了 Waltham 市，他们也毫不犹豫地跟着中文学校走。暑往寒来，赛乐川和妹妹赛因儿在剑桥中文学校一天天长，中文知识也随之日积月累。



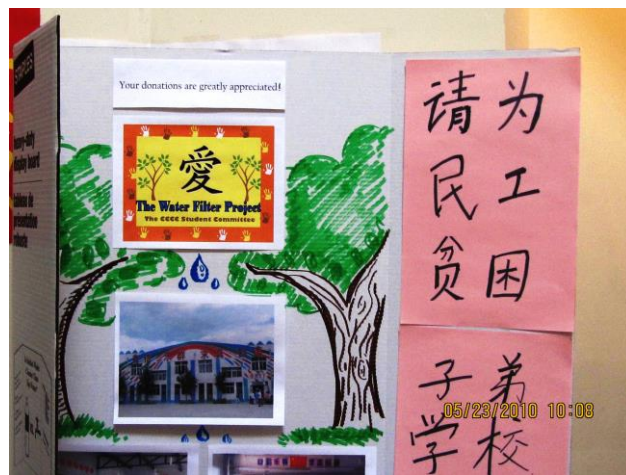
（曾茵茵和她的女儿，剑桥中文学校学生赛因儿）

谈到妈妈在孩子成长过程中的作用时，茵茵非常谦虚低调，把自己如何在儿子成长过程中对他灌输中国文化的话题推而广之地变成了她这个中国妈妈如何在培养儿子的同时，积极主动地在美国社会，在小学，中学，乃至大学这些教育机构，用文艺演出，中国文化专题讲座，教美国孩子包饺子等各种形式，宣传介绍中国文化，引导世界关注中国。赛乐川中学时做的学校的项目

（project）也都与中国有关。为了让孩子们能更多地认识和了解中国，接触和感受中国，赛乐川的父母每年暑假都会带孩子们去中国。

我们《剑桥园地》的读者们一定还记得 2011 年赛乐川在《剑桥园地》第十六期上发表的那篇“我们在剑桥中文学校为北京的民工子弟学校一台新饮用水过滤器募捐”的文章吧？

（http://bostoncccc.org/newsletter/newsletter16_09.pdf）那篇文章记录了赛乐川如何积极组织他所在的 Winchester 高中同学们为北京的民工子弟能喝上干净的水而踊跃募捐的故事，记录了赛乐川如何在父母影响下关注中国的身体力行的足迹。



从茵茵给我展示的一张张充满故事的照片，一篇篇报章杂志的专题报道，我看到了曾茵茵一步一个脚印地对孩子的引导，看到了赛乐川一天一天的成长，同时也看到了艺术家的曾茵茵在宣传中国文化方面的艺术特色。用老纪的话说，茵茵用中国的饺子征服了美国孩子的心，唤起了美国孩子对中国美食乃至中国文化从品尝，好奇，到欣赏，向往，热爱。

曾茵茵不仅积极鼓励儿女们认真学习中文，她还言传身教地向孩子们传授中国传统的道德教育，教育孩子尊敬父母，尊敬师长。每年过圣诞节，茵茵都非常用心地为远在美国的公公婆婆全家精心挑选圣诞礼物，飘洋过海地邮寄到欧洲…… 孩子们看在眼里，印刻在了心里。在中西文化交叉渗透中长大的赛乐川，有时也会与妈妈讨论多元文化带给他的困惑不解，他会问妈妈，中国传统文化讲究尊重孝敬父母，但如果你们不一定对的时候，我也要听从你们吗？……

进了哈佛大学后，赛乐川在繁忙的大学学习期间，仍然坚持不懈地学习中文。在剑桥中文学校多年的中文学习所打下的坚实基础，加上在哈佛大学进一步的中文深造，赛乐川甚至能用尖锐的文笔和恰如其分的措辞，非常自如地用中文写下洋洋洒洒的政论文“美国的司法现状 - 美国社会的‘警察军国主义化’问题”，抨击美国社会存在的问题。

赛乐川学习中文真可谓是“活学活用”。曾茵茵拿出厚厚一摞赛乐川的中文创

作给我看，我大致翻阅了一番，看到了赛乐川如何结合着他的艺术创作才能，将他所学到的中文知识和中国文化活学活用，创作出了许许多多的妙趣横生的中文小话剧剧本，自然巧妙地将中华五千年的文明和现代化世界揉合起来，从成吉思汗到圆明园，从北京胡同到周杰伦，语言和思维跨越着时空自由地发挥……



“赛乐川在学习中文过程中有没有被迫的压力？”在美国生活多年熟知中国家长和孩子的我问了曾茵茵这么一个问题，

这也是我们海外中文教育非常常见的一个问题。

茵茵迟疑了一会儿，然后用缓慢而动情的声音告诉了我一个我完全意想不到的极为震撼的感动至极的秘密：赛乐川想学好中文的最重要原因，是为了更好地跟妈妈说话！茵茵说，她每年过生日，都会收到特殊的礼物 -- 孩子们亲手用中文书写给妈妈的信！

茵茵拿出一本活页夹来，里面是她所珍藏的厚厚的一摞孩子们书写给她的信。她从中抽出一封她过生日时收到的儿子赛乐川亲笔写给妈妈的字迹工整的信，信中开头第一段话就是：

妈，

我真高兴我现在可以用中文给你写信了。老实说一个大愿望，为什么我想把我的中文学好，是因为我可以更好地跟你说话……

我的眼眶湿润了，内心深深地被感动着！世界上还有什么比这般母子深情更珍贵的？赛乐川如此努力地学习中文，动力之一竟是为了妈妈！

采访曾茵茵结束之后的回家路上，我一直在回味着老纪的评语：“赛乐川教育得这么好，都是妈妈曾茵茵的功劳！”



我们在剑桥中文学校为北京的民工子弟学校一台新饮用水过滤器募捐

赛乐川

原载《剑桥园地》第 16 期（2011 年 2 月）

秦乐川：我们在剑桥中文学校为北京的民工子弟学校一台新饮用水过滤器募捐

The Water Project Alex Saich August 11, 2010

Every year, Winchester High School along with Primary Source organizes a trip to the Dandelion Migrant School outside of Beijing, China. Winchester High School students are given



the opportunity to stay with the students at the migrant school for a week, teaching them English while learning about Chinese culture at the same time. Mrs. Harvey, a teacher and the head of the social studies department at Winchester High, first helped coordinate the trip 5 years ago with Primary Source and the principal of the school, Ms. Hong Zheng. By staying among the students, the volunteers from Winchester High gain a unique insight into their way of life and the hardships that they have to endure. The program has

continued for several years now, and a bond has been formed between students from Winchester High School and those of the migrant school.

The students at the Dandelion School come from all over China, and are given the rare opportunity to receive a well-rounded education for relatively little money. The school is for children of migrant workers in Beijing who come to the city hoping to find better work. Many students come from extreme poverty, finding the living conditions at the school much better than at home. Despite this, however, the school still lacks many basic and essential accommodations needed to survive. During our stay last year, for example, Ms. Zheng, informed us that both of their water purifiers had recently broken down. The water at the school doesn't meet the regulations set by the Chinese government, and contains very high levels of copper, iron, and other heavy metals. On top of this, their water also contains very high levels of bacteria. Last year, Mrs.

Harvey and Mrs. Kangas discussed this problem with Principal Zheng and the Water Project took form. The fall of 2009 is when the idea for this project really took hold and when planning began. Every year Mrs. Harvey and Mrs. Kangas are the two teachers who accompany the volunteers to the Dandelion School, and they like to do something beneficial for the students there. This year the teachers and students decided to raise money to help them buy a new water purifier. On our trip last year in the summer of 2009 our accompanying science teacher, Ms. Zhou, tested the tap water and found that the



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acidity level was shockingly high. Principal Zheng told us that the cost for a new water purifier would be about \$5,000 each, and that the school would need two of them.

Starting in early spring of 2010, the Winchester teachers and students going to the Dandelion school that summer began brainstorming and working on ways to raise money for the two water purification systems. Leading up to the annual trip in July, our students met weekly



every Monday night to discuss fundraising options and to develop lesson plans for our eventual trip. It was at these meetings where we came up with the idea and designed the plan to hold a ping pong tournament at Winchester High School in an effort to try and raise money; students would come and pay an entree fee at the door to compete in the tournament and enjoy Chinese food. Everyone involved did a tremendous job in helping to set up the tournament. Students and teachers alike helped after school to set up ping pong tables that

various people had generously donated for the night. One student's parents even went so far as to buy a brand new ping pong table just for the event, which was planned to be auctioned off later. The tournament was to be held in the cafeteria of the school and in total we had 5 tables set up

for playing. The Sichuan Garden restaurant in Woburn also graciously donated all of the Chinese food for the tournament (enough for 100+ people) for free. The tournament took place in late May, and everything was in place for a great evening. Mrs. Harvey had set up a projector in the cafeteria with a slideshow of pictures from the school to promote or cause. The students at the Dandelion School also designed beautiful postcards from hand for us to sell, which we laid out for people at the tournament. On top of that, many parents also kindly donated raffle items such as gift cards and



show tickets to be auctioned off. All in all the tournament was a huge success; 64 competitors played in it and over 100 people showed up to support the cause. Everyone loved the food and atmosphere and people found out a lot more about the Dandelion School and their problems. The Winchester Star, the local newspaper, was also extremely helpful; they wrote an article about the trip in early June, and another article about the ping-pong tournament and its success. These articles were very important in spreading the news about our project and it brought in more donations and help. All in all we raised about \$1,600 that night, a third of all the money we needed and a lot more than we thought we would get.

After a while the group got in contact with the Cambridge Center for Chinese Culture, a Chinese language and culture school located Waltham, MA, who were also instrumental in raising money for the project. The Principal of the CCCC, Mrs. Kai, found out about the Dandelion School and our project and met with our group. She was very eager to help out as well. With her help, the first ever Student Committee was set up at the Chinese school in early March

which worked tirelessly until the school year ended in late June. These students met weekly and came up with donation ideas for the Water project. The committee was very productive for a fledgling group, setting up donation boxes throughout the school with information about the



project and organizing bake sales in order to raise funds. The committee organized several bake sales throughout the spring, making food at home and bringing it to sell for donations during school hours. The committee worked hard right up until the Winchester group left for China in June, raising \$450 for the school in China. We also elicited help from a group of students from Harvard University, who heard about the project through mutual friends. The prospect really excited them and the students will be going to the Dandelion School next March.

in order to get close to reaching our goal of \$5,000 for one water purification system. Many generous teachers around Winchester High School donated a lot of money out of their own pockets for the cause. A booth was also set up at the annual Winchester Town Day selling more postcards from the Dandelion school and asking for donations. Finally, students on the trip and their parents also gave graciously to the cause. In total the project garnered almost \$4,000. Although we fell short of the target, we're still proud of the money that we earned and the people at the Dandelion School are very grateful for all of our hard work. With a few more donations Principal Zheng can get one of the two water purification systems that it needs. Winchester High and the Dandelion School have also been talking to companies in China in the hopes of securing a water purification system as a donation from one of these organizations. Hopefully the school can install their water systems as soon as possible.

Before the students and teachers were to leave in late July, a lot more funds were needed

