



Cosy Restaurant's Christina Wong (left) and mother-in-law Suy Woo Wong.

### Bizzline: A 50-year Chinese food tradition

It is a testament to the longevity of Cosy Restaurant and Tavern, that at age 90, original owner Suy Woo Wong is still helping prepare signature dishes like Cantonese chow mien and chicken balls.

This, a half-century after Suy Woo and her late husband Wilfred Wong opened the eatery in 1964.

The business at 361 Lake St. then offered a few Chinese specialties, to a population with an evolving taste for Oriental and ethnic cuisine.

Workers from a cement company nearby, an after-hours bar crowd and a growing north-end population allowed the restaurant to expand to a backlot by 1970.

It has continued on as a local mainstay, to become the Garden City's oldest Chinese food restaurant continually run by the same owner. It turns 50 on Jan. 4

"We are just very hardworking," said Suy Woo's daughter-in-law Christina Wong, who married into the family in 1970 and works at Cosy as a manager and part owner.

"Every day we are here, in and out — even my mother-in-law," she said, adding when any vacations are to be had "it always happens to be a short one.

"Suy Woo doesn't want to retire at all," said Christina with some amazement, adding that being restaurateurs runs in the family blood.

"And if I retired, I wouldn't know what to do," she said. "I have worked in a restaurant all my life."

Christina also finds daily comfort in Cosy's community-like ambiance inside its venerable dining room jammed with regulars.

"Some of them started coming 30 or 40 years ago, and have been coming ever since," she said. "The, they bring the next generation along with them."

Christina adds there are no plans to wind the restaurant down.

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