



Dim Sum and Mrs. Virginia Wilson

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In late 2006, I was invited by the retired dean, Dr. Mark Auburn, and his wife, Dr. Sandy Auburn, to a Saturday dim sum group lunch at Li Wah Restaurant in Cleveland. I liked the setting of a round table with a Lazy Susan at the center with everyone having equal access to the food.

Among the group was Mrs. Virginia Wilson, who I later learned started the dim sum group. She and her husband, Bob, re-met Mark and Sandy in 1991, over a post-church dim sum on Sunday at a restaurant in Merriman Valley, which then offered limited dim sum service. Bob and Virginia discovered a love for dim sum in Hawaii, where they owned a vacation

property; Sandy and Mark had their first dim sum in San Diego in 1986.

Sadly Bob passed away in 1995; however, Virginia was ready to rejoin her past social circles. She suggested going to Li Wah for dim sum, thus beginning a ten-year tradition, which lapsed when she could no longer travel to Cleveland.

Virginia had hearing handicap and a service dog home. Sandy volunteered to sit by her and be her “repeater station” so she could participate in the conversation. Before leaving, Virginia liked to take home an order of sticky fried rice and Chinese broccoli with garlic salt. She was not amused when different cashiers would charge differently for her take-out order: Virginia was a frugal Scotswoman. However, she proudly left endowments with The University of Akron and the community when she left peacefully in 2015.