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Nev Faull

Family Story

My name is Nev, I am a queer, trans, mixed race, 3rd generation Filipinx diasporic settler now on the occupied lands of the Chinook, Cowlitz, Clackamas, & many other tribes-- known today as Portland, OR. While I was born & raised on the unceded lands of the Duwamish & other tribes of the Seattle metro area, I also spent much of my childhood on the islands of the Kānaka ʻŌiwi--mainly Kauaʻi.

Like many BIPOC families, our gatherings--no matter the occasion--centered around food. As a fundamental part of our family culture it has carried on within me as a way to connect & create community away from my mom in Seattle, & the rest of our family back home.

Most of my childhood memories revolve around food--watching my elders make it, being naughty and sneaking extra kakanen, & the excitement of getting in line to serve up our plates from a massive table of food. As an adult now, I have an even greater respect and admiration for all the Aunties in the kitchens, working hard to keep everyone fed. I can reflect on the pride each of them had in their role of our larger family unit. That and the pride of claiming to make the best adobo in the family (the title of which will forever belong to Auntie Marsha in my opinion, sorry mom!).

While I do have a few family recipes I like to make when I'm feeling especially homesick (always accessed via a quick phone call to mom)--the real lasting impact my family culture had on me was the practice of expressing care through food. That sentiment has taken root in me and grown into my practice of building community around food.

I am grateful for this practice I know I will bring with me no matter where I am or who I am in community with. I can connect my home now--with my chosen queer family--to my family back home on Kauaʻi through the act of creating connections with food.

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