Many articles that mention drinking or alcohol tend to focus on negative consequences. Like people couldn’t control themselves after drinking. However, I want to share a positive memory with my friends related to alcohol. Before I begin, let me introduce myself a little. After working with myself for over twenty years, I can say that I am a person who is not fond of being around people all the time. I'm closer to being an introvert than an extrovert, although I do love spending time with my close friends. Last summer was the first time I had gone back home to Taiwan after graduating from high school there, and I hadn't seen my family or friends in person for over three years. I was worried about how things would be between us since we weren't in touch much via social media.

It all started when my friends hosted a farewell party for me at the cute quarantine room that my parents had set up for me just before I went back to Taiwan. I was surprised that they had arranged a farewell party for me. My friend and I have always used the nicknames Bean, Bear, and Corn, and that night they all came to my place, with Sun and Fish joining us via phone.

Bean was the first person who showed up, she told me that other people are coming as well for a small farewell party. It was also the very first time that I drank with these friends. I was excited to see how my close friends behave or react while they are drunk. The legal age for drinking alcohol in Taiwan is eighteen. Me and my friends were all little with no money at the time and I left Taiwan when I was eighteen. That’s why I didn’t really have a chance to drink with these friends. For those people who are not familiar with each other, drinking is a great way to get to know more about a person in a short period of time. I’m really interested in watching them get drunk.

Miss Bean is the funniest person in our group, and she has an excellent sense of humor. She sometimes makes adult jokes, but she never hurts anyone's feelings with them. That night, she surprised me with a huge teddy bear that I had admired at IKEA. She had taken it on a three-hour subway ride just for me, and she said, "Whenever you miss me in the United States, hug this bear like it’s me." She also shared a funny story about how she carried the bear on the way to my place. That was the best gift I had ever received, and I was holding back tears of joy. I didn't want to cry at the start of the party, as I wanted it to be full of joy and laughter. Bean, Bear, and I were waiting for Corn to arrive with the food we had ordered, and we started the farewell party at around 9 pm. We wanted to support Fish's family business, which is selling fried chicken and other fried foods. It felt great to support a friend's family in this way.

When I met Miss Bear in middle school, she was the smartest person I knew. In fact, she was one of the few people I hung out with in seventh grade. Miss Bear's home was located just across the road from our school, but it wasn't her proximity that I admired. She was always up to something, whether it was making jokes or sharing stories about her life and others'. Even if what she said didn't make sense, it was always entertaining to listen to her. Miss Bear was a lively and fun person to be around, and she was the second person to show up at my place at night. She joked around about being jealous of the teddy bear I received from Bean, but we all knew she was just teasing. We spent the evening discussing what to order for food and texting Corn to pick it up on the way.

Let's discuss Corn, the only male member in our group. We were all eagerly waiting for him, mostly because we couldn't wait to start eating. As we chatted amongst ourselves, a strange figure suddenly appeared on the blurry window. I asked Bean and Bear to turn and look, and they were equally surprised. We soon realized that it was Corn, who always manages to surprise us. Despite his tendency to annoy and provoke us, Corn has a unique ability to help us gain perspective and escape our own endless thought cycles. It was a rainy night. Thanks to Corn, our food arrived nice and fresh.

The two that’s on the phone were Sun and Fish. Sun was in the hospital at the time to give birth to her baby girl. We all met her husband in that summer and glad that she found a good person to spend her life with. While chatting, her phone hung out suddenly. Then we got her husband’s text saying that it’s the time. I’m really glad that after the farewell party,good news arrived. The baby had come to the world safe and sound. I can’t wait to see the baby next time when I go back to Taiwan. On the other hand, Fish was at the other end of Taiwan. She went back there to live with her girlfriend and prepare for the technical examination after August. We met her girlfriend on video chat and her adorable cat. The cat is the queen. It’s really funny to see how the cat reacts on the phone chat. We had a good time calling the cat and talking with them on the phone.

We started to drink after talking with people on the phone. I think I was too excited and happy for this party. I was doing something silly and acting like I’m drunk. Corn was joking that I drank before they came. Truth is not. I do feel my heartbeat going fast and happy all the time. When the body is excited, people will feel the heart rate increase and emotions become more powerful. Excitement will not only make the heart beat faster but also increase the blood pressure temporarily. When the blood pressure increases, the speed of the blood will run faster in the body. Higher blood pressure also happens to people who have alcohol. When alcohol enters the bloodstream, it will widen the blood vessels. I think I found a reasonable explanation for why I was acting like I was drunk at that party. The thing is that we didn’t have a lot of alcohol and everyone was sober at the end. I didn’t feel sad about it because I finally understand that alcohol is not going to change people, it is just something to make an individual express their emotions more than usual. My friends, after knowing them for years, we don’t need that chemical to make us express our feelings. Proper amount of alcohol will not cause a bad effect and might help some people feel more social in the party or meeting. I also realized the power that being around with the people who love you can really make an individual feel special and have more confidence.