



# APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

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- Trip to Brazil Summer 2025


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- Santa Cruz Ramadan Iftar Party
- Community Iftar at LAUMC
- University Iftar
- Muslim Friends & Neighbors Iftar
- Dialogue & Community Iftar in Berkeley
- High School Girls Iftar
- San Francisco Muslim Community Iftar
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- BAYCC Community Iftar
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- San Jose State University Iftar
- Multi Continent Iftar

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# EID MUBARAK

Wishing you & your loved ones a joyful, peaceful, and blessed Eid filled with love, laughter, and countless blessings.

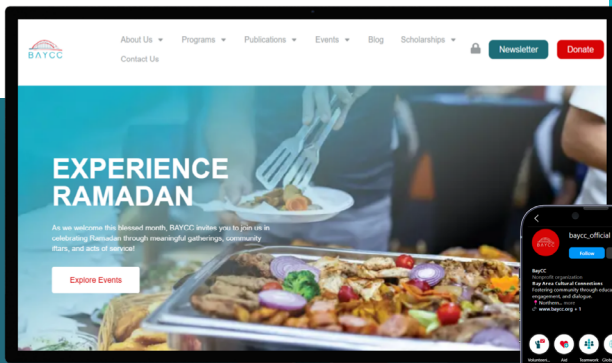
## THIS MONTH WITH BAYCC

As Ramadan comes to a close, this month's newsletter reflects on the many iftar gatherings that brought our community together, from interfaith dinners to university and family iftars. We also look ahead to the Ramadan For Me Festival, where children share their reflections on Ramadan, and an exciting 2025 Summer Trip to Brazil. Dive in to relive these moments and see what's coming next at BayCC!

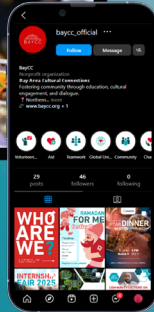
## ABOUT US

Founded in 2002 by volunteers from diverse professional backgrounds, BayCC harnesses the power of interfaith dialogue, community engagement, and education to promote the well-being of the community and foster stronger connections.

Visit [@ baycc.org](https://www.baycc.org) to learn more.



baycc.org



@baycc\_official

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Stay in the loop of all the latest news and updates through our new website and social media platforms!

[VIEW PLATFORMS](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

RSVP for events at: [baycc.org/events](https://baycc.org/events)



**RAMADAN FOR ME festival!**

**Timeline:**

- Registration: Feb 19 - Mar 7
- Design: Mar 7 - Apr 4
- Event: Apr 6

[Register on our website!](#)

### RAMADAN FOR ME FESTIVAL

How does Ramadan look through the eyes of young minds?

Ramadan for Me is a unique festival where children and youth express their experiences through art, writing, and performances. This is their chance to share what Ramadan means to them in creative and meaningful ways.

**DATE:**  
April 6, 2025

**TIME:**  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**LOCATION:**  
Grant Elementary School  
470 Jackson St, San Jose 95112

**TO LEARN MORE:**  
[Click Here](#)



Join us on our trip to **BRAZIL**

### TRIP TO BRAZIL SUMMER 2025

An unforgettable journey to Brazil with Pacifica Institute!

In this international trip, from the vibrant streets of São Paulo to the breathtaking views of Rio de Janeiro, participants will explore Brazil's rich culture and history while engaging with local communities and remarkable individuals.

**DATE:**  
June 15-23, 2025

**CITIES:**  
São Paulo & Rio de Janeiro

**TO LEARN MORE:**  
[Click Here](#)

**FOR INQUIRIES:**  
fatihcans@gmail.com  
kursatkose81@gmail.com

## PAST EVENTS

MARCH 1,  
2025



### RAMADAN STREET

The community came together for a night of reflection, joy, and connection as we marked the beginning of Ramadan. Hosted right outside of the BayCC community center, the evening featured a communal iftar, engaging activities for children, a vibrant Ramadan bazaar, and a diverse selection of delicious foods. It was a beautiful gathering where friendships were strengthened, new connections were made, and the spirit of Ramadan was truly felt by all.

MARCH 5,  
2025



### CALIFORNIA IFTAR IN SACRAMENTO

Community leaders, faith representatives, and local officials came together at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento for an iftar dinner.

The event was centered around the values of Ramadan—reflection, compassion, and connection—and served as an opportunity to build bridges across different communities. Guests from a variety of backgrounds shared a meal, listened to speakers, and spent time in thoughtful conversation.



Atilla Kahveci in representation of Pacifica Institute



## PAST EVENTS



Senator Dave Cortese offered words on the importance of diversity and working together across lines of difference. His message echoed the purpose of the night: to foster mutual understanding and strengthen community ties.

The atmosphere throughout the evening was warm and welcoming. Attendees expressed gratitude for the chance to gather in a setting that encouraged dialogue and shared purpose. One of the highlights was simply seeing people from different walks of life coming together in the same space, united by a desire to connect and learn from one another.



### SANTA CRUZ RAMADAN IFTAR PARTY

University students gathered at UC Santa Cruz's RCC Red Room for a special Ramadan Iftar Party. The evening was more than just a meal—it was a chance for students from diverse backgrounds to connect, learn, and share in the traditions of Ramadan.

The event began with a simple but meaningful tradition: breaking the fast with dates and water, followed by Maghrib prayer. As students came together in reflection, the atmosphere was warm and welcoming. The night continued with a delicious Iftar meal, offering everyone a chance to share conversations over good food. Turkish tea followed, providing a comforting touch as students engaged in casual discussions, exchanging stories, and getting to know one another.

**MARCH 6,  
2025**



# PAST EVENTS

MARCH 9,  
2025



## COMMUNITY IFTAR AT LAUMC

Los Altos United Methodist Church (LAUMC) opened its doors for a Community Iftar Dinner, welcoming guests from various faith backgrounds for an evening centered around Ramadan, dialogue, and togetherness.

The program began with a warm welcome from Pastor Dave, setting the tone for a night rooted in hospitality and shared values. Guests were then treated to a performance by the Creekside Worship Band, led by Pastor Dirk Damonte, which brought a spirit of joy and calm into the room.

A panel discussion, moderated by Yvonne Murray, created space for honest and thoughtful conversation between representatives from LAUMC and the Pacifica Institute. They shared reflections on their faith traditions and the ways in which interfaith connection can build stronger, more compassionate communities.

Congressman Sam Liccardo also joined the evening, offering remarks on the importance of coming together across lines of difference—especially in times when unity can feel difficult to achieve. His words encouraged reflection on the role each of us plays in creating more understanding and connected communities.



## PAST EVENTS

MARCH 9,  
2025



### UNIVERSITY IFTAR

University students gathered at the Mountain View Senior Center to share iftar, learn about Ramadan, and meet new people. The iftar brought together students from different backgrounds, fostering conversations and new friendships in a warm and welcoming space.

The evening started with a welcome speech by Dr. Goknur, followed by a short talk on the Adhan. As the call to prayer signaled the time to break fast, everyone shared a meal and a moment of gratitude.

“ This wasn’t just a meal—it was a chance to connect with people I might not have met otherwise.

After dinner, students joined interactive activities—writing reflections in a word cloud game, tasting Turkish coffee, and learning more about Ramadan at themed stations. A lighthearted Kahoot quiz wrapped up the night, with small prizes for the winners.



### MUSLIM FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS IFTAR

BayCC welcomed over 80 guests for a vibrant multigenerational iftar. We were honored to host Fatima Kaneez from ICNA Relief USA, who spoke on the impact of service and collaboration, highlighting BayCC volunteers’ ongoing support. Yusuf Özgen then shared BayCC’s vision of hizmet (khidmat)—a commitment to service at our core.

MARCH 12,  
2025



## PAST EVENTS

As the sun set, the call to prayer was followed by a lively iftar, filling every seat with conversation and connection. Many attendees expressed gratitude, some discovering BayCC as a welcoming community space for the first time. With growing awareness and engagement, we look forward to future gatherings, retreats, and volunteer initiatives ahead of next Ramadan.

MARCH 15,  
2025



### DIALOGUE & COMMUNITY IFTAR IN BERKELEY

The North Berkeley Senior Center became a space for conversation, connection, and shared experience during the Dialogue & Community Iftar, co-hosted by Pacifica Institute and BAYCC.

The evening brought together attendees from a wide range of backgrounds to explore how open dialogue can help bridge divides and build community. A panel discussion titled “The Role of Dialogue in Bridging Divides and Healing Communities” invited thoughtful reflection, with speakers sharing personal and professional insights into what it means to foster understanding in a diverse society.



Events like this are a core part of BAYCC's mission to build bridges between communities and create spaces where dialogue and shared values take the lead.



## PAST EVENTS

MARCH 16,  
2025



### HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS IFTAR

A group of high school girls gathered at the Mountain View Community Center to break their fast, reflect on Ramadan, and spend time together. The evening started with an icebreaker, helping everyone feel comfortable, followed by a short presentation and dua before iftar. After sharing a meal and praying together, the night continued with a Kahoot game, dessert, and music. A photo booth and a round of the telephone game brought plenty of laughter.

The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, with many attendees—both Muslim and non-Muslim—expressing gratitude for the chance to connect. It was a simple yet special way to celebrate Ramadan, bringing people together in a way that felt natural and heartfelt.

“It was such a special evening. Thank you to everyone who made it happen!”



### SAN FRANCISCO MUSLIM COMMUNITY IFTAR

BAYCC was honored to attend an iftar at the San Francisco Muslim Community Center, where members of the local Muslim community gathered to share a meal and express appreciation for the ongoing service work happening across the city.

This image was taken during the memoriam of Imam Ebu Qadir Al Amin.

MARCH 17,  
2025

## PAST EVENTS

Speeches from Brother Ahmed, Imam Nail, and graduates of the Tanzania Hizmet Schools brought attention to the importance of collaboration and unity.

This event marked the beginning of a deeper relationship between BAYCC and the SF Muslim Community Center. With more volunteers, we hope to support and expand service opportunities in the greater San Francisco area.

MARCH 21,  
2025



### INTERFAITH IFTAR AT SPUMC

BAYCC co-hosted the Interfaith Iftar Dinner at St. Paul United Methodist Church (SPUMC) in Fremont, returning for its second year with familiar energy and a few new faces. The evening brought together neighbors, friends, and faith leaders from across the Tri-City area—each one adding something unique to the conversation.

The program began outdoors at the Peace Pole, a small but powerful landmark that sits between the church and its neighboring mosque. The two communities share more than a space—they share years of cooperation and respect. It was the right place to start an evening centered on coexistence.



Inside the sanctuary, speakers from BayCC, Pacifica Institute, SPUMC, Tri-City Interfaith Council, and Tri-City Muslims reflected on this year's theme: *Thriving in Community*, joined by Alameda County Supervisor Elisa Márquez, who voiced her support for interfaith engagement.



## PAST EVENTS



As the call to prayer echoed, guests broke their fasts and gathered for iftar, sharing home-cooked meals and meaningful conversations. During dinner, State Senator Aisha Wahab and Assembly Member Alex Lee emphasized the lasting impact of events like these in fostering trust and connection.



### BAYCC COMMUNITY IFTAR

On the 22nd night of Ramadan, around 250 members of the BayCC community came together for a heartfelt iftar. It was an evening filled with good food, meaningful conversations, and a strong sense of togetherness. Thank you to everyone who joined and made the night so special!



### INTERFAITH IFTAR AT CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM



MARCH 22,  
2025

MARCH 23,  
2025



## PAST EVENTS

BAYCC joined Congregation Netivot Shalom and the Pacifica Institute to co-host the 16th Annual Interfaith Iftar Dinner in Berkeley—a longstanding tradition that continues to bring Muslim, Jewish, and interfaith communities together in a space of respect, conversation, and shared celebration.

The afternoon started well before the doors opened, as Muslim and Jewish volunteers gathered in the kitchen to help prepare the evening's iftar meal. That simple act—working side by side—has become one of the most meaningful parts of the event. It's where the connections begin.



At 6:00 PM, guests filled the sanctuary and were welcomed with live music by Rabbi Tsvi Bar-David and John Erlich, whose performances helped set a calm and reflective tone. Interfaith prayers followed, led by Rabbi Chai Levy and Nurdin Kaparov, who offered blessings, warm wishes for upcoming holidays, and gratitude for years of ongoing partnership between the communities.

The evening continued with short talks from Hillary Fox and Enes Sen, who shared an update on an interfaith youth project that encourages students from Muslim and Jewish backgrounds to connect through dialogue and shared experiences—a promising sign for the future of this kind of work.

As the call to prayer was recited by Ahmet, guests paused for a quiet moment of reflection and then broke their fast together. The meal—prepared with care earlier in the day—was shared around full tables, followed by more music from Ben Kramarz and Ikbal Erdogan that lifted the room to a joyful close.



# PAST EVENTS

MARCH 25,  
2025



## SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY IFTAR

BAYCC joined students at San Jose State University for an iftar that turned out to be one of our favorite evenings this Ramadan.

The event kicked off with a thoughtful talk by Dr. Heba, who spoke about the deeper meanings of Ramadan in a way that felt relatable and grounding. As the adhan rang out, students came together for Maghrib prayer—some meeting for the first time, others catching up after long weeks of midterms.

Later in the evening, Mr. Mustafa Bayraktar introduced BAYCC and spoke briefly about our mission—highlighting the work we do and our interest in building real connections with students and campus communities.

The scent oils we brought as small gifts added a fun moment toward the end—students passed them around, compared favorites, and a few even asked if they could take extras.



We're looking forward to returning, staying in touch, and continuing to build something meaningful together.



## IFTAR DINNER WITH SHELTERS

BayCC recently hosted a heartfelt Iftar dinner with local shelters, creating a warm and inclusive space where everyone felt a sense of belonging. The evening fostered

MARCH 25,  
2025

## PAST EVENTS

deeper cooperation between organizations while strengthening support for sheltered youth and individuals in need. Following a shared meal, guests watched a short video about Ramadan, sparking meaningful conversations that continued late into the night.

This gathering served as a powerful reminder of the impact we can have when we come together. It inspired our community to take a more active role in supporting those in need—building bridges, offering advocacy, and creating pathways toward a brighter future.

MARCH 28,  
2025

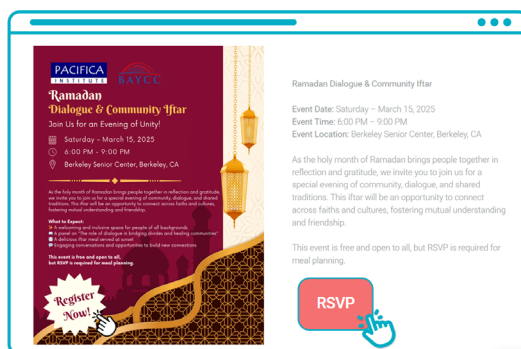


### MULTICONTINENT IFTAR

BAYCC hosted an intimate iftar in Santa Clara with guests representing Muslim communities from Asia, Africa, and the Americas—as well as one visitor from a Christian background.

The evening opened with a meet-and-greet, followed by a heartfelt adhan and prayer led by a member of the Afghan community. After dinner, guests shared reflections on the meaning of connection and cross-cultural brotherhood, and a BAYCC volunteer introduced our mission.

The conversations sparked real interest in continued involvement, with many attendees expressing a desire to return and contribute to BAYCC's work. We're grateful for the trust, energy, and sense of shared purpose that filled the room.



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EVENTS**  
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