DECEMBER 2023

ISSUE 10

### BAYCC Community Newsletter



Autumn is a festive season with Halloween and Thanksgiving on its calendar. BAYCC community members had plenty of outreach and community-building events during this period. The newsletter also presents important upcoming events for the winter season.

We hope you will enjoy reading about BAYCC activities and continue to support our mission to make a positive impact in our community! We will be glad if you can contribute newsletter with your articles and inputs.

#### Newsletter Highlights

**Past Events** 

**Upcoming Events** 

**Bay Area Clubs** 

Fun Fact:

A San Francisco fun fact that might surprise you, is the fact that the famous Central Park in New York City is smaller than San Francisco's glorious Golden Gate Park by 20%! Central Park in New York covers 778 acres, while Golden Gate Park is 1017 acres.





### Çay, Çekirdek & Chat: Life,The Universe and Everything

Making its return with a pot of tea, baby carrots, and a lot of sunflower seeds, the Cay Cekirdek & Chat- Game Night Edition was the second edition of the biweekly group discussion event held by the RISE youth group. The event, held on Saturday evening at the Mindrome Coworking Space main hall, attracted over 15 guests and featured a stimulating discussion of Life, The Universe, and Everything, as well as a lot of trolley problems. The event saw a jarring venture into the workings of space, time, and gravity (with speaker Sami Kaya) that transitioned into an entertaining Game Night, the staple event of RISE that features board games and noise levels above the recommended minimum. We thank our dear participants for being a part of the experience and encourage our audience to be on the lookout for the next round of good tea and good talk.





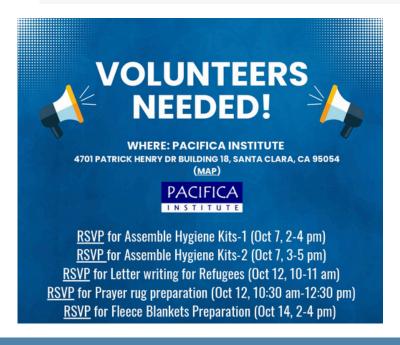


## Compassion Week: Interfaith Voluntary Projects

Compassion Week aims to build a strong, compassionate, and empathetic community by bringing people of all ages and abilities together for a week in October. Participants expand their understanding of local and global needs through volunteer opportunities. Multiple local faith communities operate in partnership during Compassion Week.

As a partner in Compassion week, we lead family friendly activities to prepare hygiene kits, fleece blankets, prayer rugs and letter writing to refugees.

On Oct 7 Saturday, we hosted an assembly of hygiene kits at our place. The volunteers prepared 300 hygiene kits for Building Peaceful Families which helps women who are re-entering the community after being incarcerated. Giving them a fresh start makes a difference in the lives of women who are being released from Elmwood County Jail and have no resources available.







### Compassion Week: Interfaith Voluntary Projects

On Oct 12 Thursday, we hosted two events in which Compassion week volunteers prepared prayer rugs for CIC Muslim Ministries to provide a 6-month supply of prayer rugs for 100 Muslim inmates. Second event was about letter writing to refugee students who were forced to leave their home country and try to start a new life.

On Oct 14 Saturday, we hosted an event in which Compassion week volunteers prepared fleece blankets to support Bill Wilson Center, Pathways Hospice, The Linus Project and YWCA victims of domestic violence & sexual assault.

Onc Oct 25, Sunday, organizers hosted a closing session for the long week projects. Faith leaders pareyd, delivered peace messages and emphesised importance of working together for common good.

As a BayCC/Pacifica Community, we also contributed to the book drive for the African Library Project. We collected the children's books from our community throughout September. We helped with sewing small zipper pouches for California-Nevada Conference Disaster Response to distribute power banks in them to the disaster victims and hand-made drawstring bags for Days for Girl.







## Çay, Çekirdek & Chat: Using Psychology in Design

How do designers use psychology to make interfaces more suitable for users? How does the mind work when perceiving content? How are Spotify designers killing it right now? This is exactly what we answered on the third-ever Cay, Cekirdek & Chat- Art Edition held by RISE, featuring Dilara Sarigoz as the lead speaker in venturing through shapes, lines, and a splash of color.

With mental exercises for memory, assigning names to shapes, and making origami that is perhaps a little too big, the night saw an entertaining discussion of modern design that was followed by a group art session with a lot of paper and a lot of folds. Accommodating over a dozen guests and a round of Krispy Kreme with tea brewed just right, the event was yet another success for the itinerary of the bi-weekly Cay, Cekirdek & Chat. What are we up to next? Stay tuned to find out.







#### **Women Retreat**

Saturday

The two days Women Retreat event was a dynamic and impactful gathering that successfully addressed the complexities of empowering women in diverse cultural contexts. The combination of Laila Muhammad's inspiring keynote, the vibrant Islamic art exhibition, and expert speeches created an atmosphere conducive to learning, networking, and collaboration. We look forward to building on this success in future initiatives aimed at advancing women's empowerment worldwide.









## Interfaith Lecture on "Spirituality in Buddhism"

On October 28, 2023, the interfaith community gathered for an insightful lecture on "Spirituality in Buddhism," delivered by Reverend Henry Toryo Adams, the Resident Minister at San Mateo Buddhist Temple. Attendees were treated to a profound exploration of Buddhist teachings, emphasizing their transformative impact on personal and collective spiritual journeys. The event cultivated mutual respect and understanding among participants from diverse faith backgrounds.











## The International Festival of Language & Culture

BAYCC'nin de sponsorlugunda bulunudugu, 21. yılını kutlayan IFLC, bu yil "En Güzel Öykü" ismiyle Hz. Yusuf (as) in hikayesini büyük bir tarihsel arka plan eşliğinde, dunyanin 12 farkli ulkesinden 74 katilimcinin güncel dans ve yorumlarla süslediği anlatımını, müzikale özel bestelenmiş şarkılar, yazılmış şiirleriyle görsel ve işitsel estetiği zirveye taşıdı.

Doğu ve Batı klasik eserlerinden yararlanılarak yazılan öykü, bilinen en eski hikayeler ile günümüz olaylarını birleştiren bir anlatıma sahipti. Kıskançlık ve hasedin insanı nasıl zalimleştirebildiğini gösteren müzikal, görkemli bir finalle dünya tarihini özetledi.

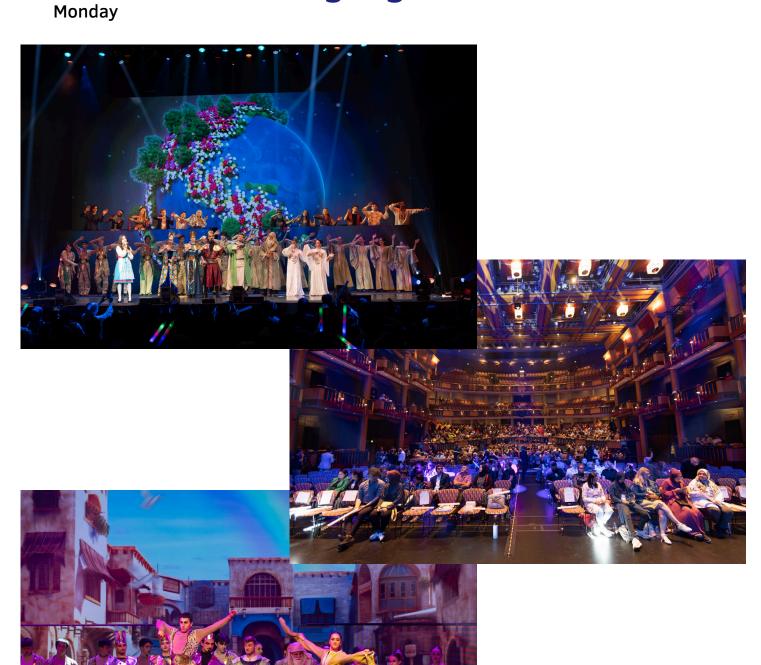
Programa Fethullah Gulen Hocaefendi'nin yanisira California Federal milletvekilleri Ted Lieu, Eric Swalvell ve Brad Sherman kutlama mesaji gönderdiler. Mesajlarda dünyanın değişik yerlerinden gelen gençlerin sanatın evrensel dili ile insanları bir araya getirmesinin öneminden bahsettiler. Ayrıca dünya genelindeki dillerin ve kültürlerin zenginliğini kutlama konusundaki özverisi ve kararlılığı için Amerikan toplumunun IFLC'ye büyük bir minnet borçlu olduğunu ifade ettiler.







## The International Festival of Language & Culture





### Weekend school tarafından Afrika'da su kuyusu kampanyası

Sevgili Dostlar, Büyük bir mutluluk ile duyuruyoruz ki, BAYCC(Bay Area Cultural Connection) bünyesinde 9 Eylül'de başlayan ve Cumartesi gunleri 109 ogrenciye hizmet veren hafta sonu okulumuz, Embrace relief isbirligiyle Afrika'da iki yeni su kuyusunu hizmete açmak için değerli velilerimizin destekleriyle Ekim ve Kasim ayında iki kermes düzenledi ve \$4263 lik kaynak saglandi. Bu önemli adım, sizin destekleriniz ve bağışlarınız sayesinde mümkün oldu. Her bir katkınız, bir umut ışığı oldu ve şimdi binlerce insan temiz içme suyuna erişim sağlayabilecek. Bu su kuyuları, Afrika'nın susuz kalmış bölgelerindeki ailelere, çocuklara ve topluluklara büyük bir kolaylık sağlayacak. Temiz suya erişim, sağlıklı bir yaşam sürmek için temel bir ihtiyaçtır ve bu projenin başarılı bir şekilde tamamlanması, birçok insanın hayatını olumlu yönde etkileyecek. Sizlere, bu projeye gösterdiğiniz ilgi ve destek için derin teşekkürlerimizi iletiyoruz. Her bir bağış, her bir paylaşım, gerçekleştirdiğimiz bu projenin başarısında kritik bir rol oynadı. Sizlerle birlikte daha nice su kuyularını açma ve daha fazla insana yardım etme umuduyla yola devam ediyoruz. Bu güzel haberi sizinle paylaşmanın mutluluğunu yaşıyor, destekleriniz için tekrar teşekkür ediyoruz.







#### Book Talk with Prof. Ori Z. Soltes

**Friday** 

Prof. Ori Z. Soltes delivered a book talk on his book titled "Between Thought and Action: An Intellectual Biography of Fethullah Gulen". Prof. Soltes emphasized the contribution of Gulen in interfaith dialogue and education. The professor teaches theology, art history, philosophy, and political history at Georgetown University. After the question and answer session, the author signed the books.





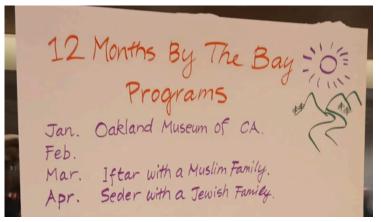




### Thanksgiving Dinner at PTBE

"12 Months by the Bay: A Pacifica-PTBE Journey Together", traveling is a wonderful way to share new experiences and discover new perspectives together. For people across traditions, travel presents a unique setting to learn about each other's culture and build trust. A new program with this in mind to bring cultures and people together kicked off with a Thanksgiving dinner on the 4th of November 2023 at the PTBE. This program is Jointly envisioned and planned by the Pacifica Institute and Peninsula Temple Beth El's Interfaith Friendship Committee and aims to establish friendship bonds by spending time together at activities that are spread throughout the year.

More than 40 people eager to make new friends attended the dinner. A menu from Turkish cuisine was served, followed by Turkish Tea and Rugelach. Project coordinators shared their vision about the project and attendants expressed their enthusiasm about new opportunities, looking beyond stereotypes, making deeper and stronger trust a reality. The program will start by a visit to Oakland Museum of California in January and continue with mutual dinner visits during Ramadan and Passover. The rest will be shaped by the participants and will include trips to local treasures, attending cultural events or sharing stories around campfire.







### Hike & Reflect: Stanford Dish Trail

How does the mind work when perceiving content? How are Spotify designers killing it right now? This is exactly what we answered on the third-ever Cay, Cekirdek & Chat- Art Edition held by RISE, featuring Dilara Sarigoz as the lead speaker in venturing through shapes, lines, and a splash of color. With mental exercises for memory, assigning names to shapes, and making origami that is perhaps a little too big, the night saw an entertaining discussion of modern design that was followed by a group art session with a lot of paper and a lot of folds. Accommodating over a dozen guests and a round of Krispy Kreme with tea brewed just right, the event was yet another success for the itinerary of the bi-weekly Cay, Cekirdek & Chat. What are we up to next? Stay tuned to find out.





#### Kids and Dads: Fun Fest

Community'mizden babalar ve çocuklarını buluşturduğumuz programa yaklaşık 40 kişi katıldı. Fremont'taki KidTopia'da çocuklar 2 saat boyunca gönüllerince eğlenirken babalar da kendilerine ayrılan odada sohbet ettiler. Programın bir bölümünde hep beraber biraraya gelinerek pizza yenildi.





### Üniversiteli Gençlerle Lake Tahoe gezisi

Kamplar öncesi üniversiteli gençlerle dinlenme-eğlenme amaçlı yapılan Lake Tahoe gezisi ile verimli bir long weekend geçirmiş olduk.

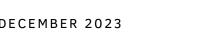




#### Serving the Homeless with Thanksgiving Dinner Box

On Sunday, 12th of November 2023, sixty-plus interfaith community volunteers came together to prepare Thanksgiving dinner boxes to be delivered to houseless residents living in the Roosevelt Park encampment. The event was facilitated by Abrahamic Alliance International and Beautify San Jose, sponsored by BAYCC, Pacifica Institute, Jewish Silicon Valley, and Peninsula Bible Church Cupertino, and hosted at BAYCC Community Center. Volunteers prayed for peace, had great discussions, and enjoyed a meal together.







#### **English Sohbet Events**

Upon community request, our English religious lecture series have commenced as of November. Speakers for the first two sessions were Bilal Sarımeşeli and Oktay Erbil. Every Friday evening at 7:30, we invite you to join our conversation programs that will be enriched with a diverse and rich portfolio of speakers.







#### 11. Söz Retreat

Bediüzzaman Said Nursi'nin Sözler isimli kitabında yer alan 11.Söz katılımcılarla müzakereli bir şekilde okundu. Oturumlara başkanlık eden İlahiyatçı Selçuk Camcı konuyu geniş çaplı izahlar getirdi. Katılımcılar ögle yemeği ve kahve aralarında birbirleriyle fikir paylaşımında bulunma imkanı buldular.





#### **Uveyiks Bake Sale**

Liseli gençlerin BAYCC çatısı altında Embrace Relief aracılığıyla açmış olduğu yardım kulübünün ilk adımı bake sale oldu. Katılımcıların ilgisini çeken baking sale' den elde edilen gelir ile Afrika'da su kuyusu açtırılması planlanıyor.







## Üniversiteli Gençler ile Friendsgiving Dinner

Friendsgiving yemeği ile biraraya gelen gençler, davet ettikleri arkadaşlarıyla keyifli bir akşam geçirdiler.







#### Building Bridges Alumni Thanksgiving Dinner

Christ Episcopal Church of Los Altos hosted a potluck Thanksgiving Dinner for Building Bridge Program Alumni on 19th November. Congregation members from three faith houses BAYCC (Pacifica Institute), Christ Church, and Congregation Beth Am were part of six sessions Building Bridge program in 2022-23 year. It was a memorable, meaningful, and joyful get-together to pray for Peace in the Middle East and to stand in solidarity with each other.











### Thanksgiving Dinner in Sacramento

BAYCC, Pacifica Institute in collaboration with St. Mark's United Methodist Church organized an Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration on 19th November at SMUMC in Sacramento. Thanksgiving homemade food was prepared and served at the venue by volunteers. After dinner guests observed regular Islamic prayer performed by Muslim participants. Later on, all guests joined the chapel for peace prayers, expressed gratitude to God, and listened to music performances.











## Interfaith Vigil and Thanksgiving Dinner

BAYCC, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Congregation Beth Jacob, Pacifica Institute, and Silicon Valley Iterriligous Council joined hands in organizing an Interfaith Vigil and Thanksgiving Dinner on 20th November. Fatih leaders representing Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism prayed for peace in the Middle East and the World. Speakers also thanked God for the bounty of rain California was bestowed last season. A large group of youth from three faith houses volunteered for the event in setup, childcare, decoration, and meal service. Youth musicians also performed on the occasion.











### Mentörlerle Thanksgiving Kampı

Mentor arkadaşlarla ve evde kalan üniversiteli arkadaşlarla 4 gün Cemal Türk abinin sohbetleri eşliğinde kamp yaptık.





### Üniversiteli Genç Kızlarla Kitap Okuma Kampı

Thanksgiving tatilini değerlendirme amaçlı üniversiteli gençler biraraya gelerek kitap okuma kampı gerçekleştirdiler.







### Cemal Türk Abi ile Sohbet

İlahiyatçı Cemal Türk, kültür merkezinde community'mizle buluştu. Konuşmasında Muhterem Fethullah Gülen Hocaefendi ile hatıralarından da bahseden Türk," Cibril Hadisi Yörüngesinde Bir Ömür" isimli çalışmasının içeriğini katılımcılarla paylaştı. Hocaefendi'nin sohbetlerinde ve yazılarında izlediği yolun Cıbril hadisinden esinlerek belirlendiğini izah eden Türk, program sonunda katılımcıların sorularını da yanıtladı.







### Ortaokul-Lise Kış Kampları

Ortaokul ve liseli öğrencilerimiz için planladığımız Kış Kampı-Kitap Okuma ve Güzel Vakit Geçirme Programlarımıza TÜM öğrencilerimizi bekliyoruz. Tatil programlarınızı Kış Kampı tarihleri (23-29) HARİCİNDE yapacağınız için şimdiden teşekkürler.







#### Winter Retreat







# Neorama 2023: Winter Retreat







# PM MLK Multifaith Day of Service

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ST. MATTHIAS CATHOLIC CHURCH OF REDWOOD CITY 57

LIFE'S MOST PERSISTENT AND URGENT QUESTION IS: WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR OTHERS? REV DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
MULTIFAITH
DAY OF SERVICE
MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024

Last year over 600 volunteers answered Dr. King's question by spending the morning of MLK Day doing for others, and you can too! Register by January 9!

TEDDY BEAR & CARE BAG ITEM
COLLECTION
See registration page





for details!

pmcmlk2024.eventbrite.com





# International Trip to India







# International Trip to Brazil







# Tanzania Trip for Students







# Tanzania Trip for Students

#### Tentative Program

Thursday, June 15: Arrival / Rest

Friday, June 16: Darussalam City TourReading Program

Saturday, June 17:Feast of Sacrifice Program

Sunday, June 18: Sacrifice Distribution

Monday, June 19: Mikumi Safari

Tuesday, June 20: Mikumi Safari

Wednesday, June 21: Reading Program

Thursday, June 22: Reading Program

Friday, June 23: Orphanage Visit/Volunteer Activity/Home Visit

Saturday, June 24: Water Well Opening Program /

Shamsiya School Visit

Sunday, June 25: Book Reading Program / Picnic

Monday, June 26: Zanzibar Island / Blue Safari

Tuesday, June 27: Zanzibar Island (Tortoise Island, Spice Garden)

Wednesday, June 28: Reading Program

Thursday, June 29: Reading Program

Friday, June 30: Gift Exchange and Return



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### **Bay Area Clubs**

Sports enthusiasts have initiated several sports clubs: Soccer, Volleyball, Hiking, Basketball, Diving, Pickleball, Stargazing, Tennis, Table Tennis, Fishing, Community Emergency Response Team, Fitness & Bodybuilding, "Art, Science & Culture Club", Winter Sports, Cyclist, Camping, Life on Wheels, Swimming, Life on 2 Wheel, and Surfing! Everyone is welcome to join any sports club they are interested to be part of. Kindly click the links below to join the WhatsApp community and choose the club you want to participate in. You can also initiate a new sports, culture, and arts club, kindly fill up the form with your brilliant ideas.

