

MARCH 2024

# BAYCC COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



March is the month of the peeking sun: and saying hello to the warm weather. But this year, March is also the bringer of something very special: Ramadan. As Ramadan finds us at the beginning of a new week, the opportunities for spiritual connection are abundant- and so are the things we can do for our community and ourselves.

ISSUE 12

## Newsletter Highlights

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And more!

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Did You Know?

There are over 100,000 earthquakes in California each year.





Monday

## PMC's MLK Multifaith Day of Service

The third Monday of each January signals the coming of an important day and the bravery that characterizes it. To celebrate this, on the 15th of January, the Peninsula Multifaith Coalition (PMC) hosted it's Annual Multifaith MLK Day of Service, drawing together hundreds of volunteers from over 30 diverse non-profits, volunteer groups, and organizations across the Bay Area community. This special occasion saw individuals from different backgrounds coming together to engage in various community service projects, ranging from open-air barbeques to elderly singing sessions, from craft & sewing booths to painting for children, and much more. BAYCC was also among the participating organizations, attending the program with a number of family volunteers who then contributed to the different activities throughout the day.







Monday

## San Francisco Peace March

BAYCC and Pacifica Institute participated in the San Francisco Peace March on 15th January, MLK Jr. Day, an annual event organized by the San Francisco Interfaith Council. This year's theme was "Social Justice and Beloved Community".



**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Interfaith Activities**

***"Social Justice and Beloved  
Community"***

**Monday, January 15, 2024  
11:00 am (March)**

**From Caltrain Depot at 4th and Townsend  
San Francisco**

The [San Francisco Interfaith Council](#) invites faith leaders and their congregants to join in the 2024 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Commemorations to be held on Monday, January 15, 2024. The 2024 March will begin promptly at 11:00 am (**arrive early**) from the Caltrain Station at 4th and Townsend. Once the March arrives at Yerba Buena Gardens Esplanade, the 14th Annual Interfaith Commemoration Ceremony will commence.





Friday

## Attending Richard Heiman's Celebration of Life

BAYCC and Pacifica Institute participated in Richard Heiman's Celebration of Life at Peninsula Temple Beth El on Friday, Jan 26, 2024. Richard Heiman is an old Pacifica Institute well-wisher who has contributed humorously to the Pacifica community. Mahmut Altun a former Director of NorCal, Pacifica Institute shared his memoir at the event.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*As we gather here today, we are united by the love and the profound sense of loss we all feel for a man who touched our lives in ways words can hardly express.*

*Richard was not just a friend; he was a constant source of light and warmth in our lives, a force of nature whose energy and spirit were as boundless as his capacity to love.*

*Richard was a man of many talents and passions, but above all, he was a man of extraordinary kindness. He was man of GOD.*

*Patience, kindness, empathy, courage – these were the tenets he lived by, and instilled in everyone around him.*

*Richard found joy in the simplest things, and in doing so, taught us to appreciate those little moments that make life so beautiful.*

*Richard was a friend who was always there, in good times and in bad. He was our rock when we were adrift, our compass when we lost our way. His friendship was a gift, one that we unwrapped every day, one that brought us immense joy, comfort, and love.*

*As we bid farewell to our dear friend Richard today, let us not lose ourselves in the sorrow of loss, but rather find comfort in the memories we shared, the laughter, the tears, the love.*

*Let us remember him not with sadness, but with the joy he brought into our lives, the lessons he taught us, and the love he shared with us.*





Friday

## Attending Richard Heiman's Celebration of Life

*Richard, you were a blessing in our lives, a light that never dimmed. You were a friend who left footprints of love and kindness on our hearts. As we say goodbye, know that your spirit will continue to live on in the garden of our memories, in the bloom of every flower, in the rustle of every leaf.*

*Rest in peace, dear Richard. You will be missed, but your spirit, your love, and your light will forever shine bright in our hearts.*

*Mahmut Altun,  
Former Director of Pacifica Institute NorCal*





Sunday

## BAYCC Townhall Meeting

Among some of the values that BAYCC holds most important are mutual understanding and collaboration. Promoting these is no easy task: it involves a mix of leadership, participation and transparency. To cultivate this ground, BAYCC hosted its annual Town Hall meeting on Sunday 28th. The event featured an open-to-all venue in which representatives shared the prospective plans, projects and next steps of BAYCC as a community and as an organization. Observing a socratic format, the event also functioned as a platform to receive feedback, suggestions and concerns from the attendees.







Friday

## Interfaith Lecture on “Spirituality in Islam”

BAYCC and Pacifica Institute organized an Interfaith Lecture on “Spirituality in Islam” conducted by Prof. Zeki Saritoprak, the Bediuzzaman Said Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies, Professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio, on Friday, Feb 9, 2024 at BAYCC Community Centre. The organizers displayed two books authored by the professor, “Islam's Jesus” and “Islamic Spirituality: Theology and Practice for the Modern World”. The professor interacted with the attendees and signed his books at the end of the event.

**Interfaith Lecture on**  
*“Spirituality in Islam”*

**Prof. Zeki Saritoprak,**  
Bediuzzaman Said Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies,  
Professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies,  
John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio

Friday,  
Feb 9, 2024

From 7:00 pm  
To 8:30 pm

[shorturl.at/cy248](https://shorturl.at/cy248)

BAYCC Community Center,  
4701 Patrick Henry Drive BLDG 18,  
Santa Clara, CA 95054





## Çay, Çekirdek & Chat With Judge Bondono

Which types of cases do superior court judges usually encounter? What does it take to become a judge? How much do they make? In yet another signature Çay, Çekirdek & Chat, youth group RISE featured Judge Bondono, a California Superior Court judge, to answer these questions, and to stir a jarring discussion about his life, the administration of justice, and current politics.







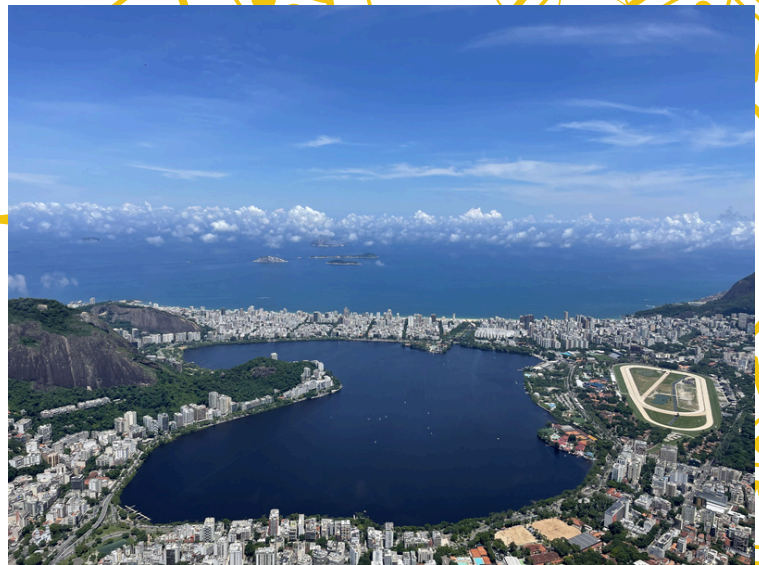
FROM

## Brazil Cultural Trip



TO

BAYCC volunteers participated in the Cultural Trip to Brazil from February 21st to 28th, organized by the Pacifica Institute. The tour delegation visited two cities: São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. The itinerary included visits to historical monuments, cultural centers, educational institutions, and tourist landmarks. The delegation interacted with participants of the Hizmet movement in Brazil and learned about the projects conducted by them. Additionally, participants were hosted by local families in their homes and were guided on local tours.







## Lecture on “An Islamic View On What It Means To Be Black”

Attending all the way from Zaytuna Academy in Berkeley, esteemed scholar Abdullah Bin Hamid Ali visited us the BAYCC community the past month, giving us a thorough and detailed breakdown of the place of race, eugenics and heritage in Islamic perspective. His lecture encompassed the lives of important Islamic figures such as Zayd ibn Haritha, putting into perspective the true nature and equality of Islam for all races and ethnicities.







Saturday

## Berat Kandili Programı

Orta-lise kız öğrencilerimizle birlikte değerlendirmeye çalıştığımız Berat Kandili Programımızda “Çadır Etkinlikleri” kapsamında hem manevi hem eğlenceli saatler geçirdik. Hep birlikte Berat Kandilimizi değerlendirdik.







## Bay Area Women's Day Event: Compassion in Sisterhood

We came together with the women of Bay Area at the "Women's Day: Compassion in Sisterhood" Event, where we are given the opportunity to foster this esteemed emotion bestowed upon our souls from the essence of the Most Compassionate, to establish tight bonds with each other, and to aspire to taste the pleasure of love because of Allah.







Friday

## Peygamber Yolu

Respect Graduate School'da hocalık yapan Dr. Mir Sadeq Ansari, Dr. Resit Haylamaz ve ekibi ile beraber Peygamber Efendimiz (sav) ile ilgili 4100 tane Arapça siyer kitap incelendikten sonra, buradan çıkan özetlerin animasyon şeklinde filme çevirileceğini söyledi. Ayrıca sahabe efendilerimizin kendileri konuşacak şekilde kısa tanıtım animasyonları için hazırlıklar yapıldığından bahsetti. Bunlarla ilgili hazırlanan örnekleri katılımcılara seyrettirdi.



### Dr. Mir Sadeq Ansari

*Islamic Sciences, Hadith*

[sansari@respectgs.us](mailto:sansari@respectgs.us)

B. A. – Macquarie University, 2010.

M. A. – University of Sydney, 2012.

Ph.D. – Charles Sturt University, 2022.

**Area of Specialization:** Arabic Language, Islamic Sciences and Hadith.



Mir Sadeq Ansari was born in Afghanistan and brought up in Australia. In his Bachelor of Arts, he studied psychological science, at Macquarie University, in 2010. He was the president of Macquarie University Affinity Club (2005-08). In his M. A. he did Islamic and Arabic Studies, University of Sydney, 2012.

He studied Arabic at the Nile Centre, Cairo Egypt, 2014. He took Turkish Language courses and Islamic and Ottoman History Courses in Istanbul, Turkey (June 2014 – June 2015). He obtained a certificate in Clinical Pastoral Education at ISRA Australia, 2019.

He lectured in Charles Sturt University and Respect Graduate School. His doctoral dissertation is on the role and rules of 'aql/reason in text criticism of hadith by the famous polymath Abu Ja'far Tahawi. He completed his Ph.D. thesis in July 2022.



## Emergency Preparedness Seminar

Living in an earthquake zone, being prone to forest fires and being on the coastal region means natural disasters and emergencies are likely in the Bay Area. This calls for a general awareness and education on how to tackle emergencies, and how to ensure the safety of ourselves and others. To promote this knowledge, Embrace Relief NorCal invited The City of Santa Clara to give a seminar, followed by a brunch, which attracted multiple guests and was a great opportunity to make connections with the city.







Friday

## BAYCC Community Iftar

15 Mart Cuma akşamı saat 7'de Quinlan Community Center - Cupertino Room'da icra edeceğimiz "Community İftar Programı"nda sizleri de aramızda görmekten mutluluk duyacağız.

# COMMUNITY IFTAR

## RSVP HERE

POPCORN AND COTTON CANDY FOR KIDS  
BRING YOUR TEA THERMOS WITH YOU

MARCH 15 2024 - FRIDAY 7 PM

Yer: Quinlan Community Center - Cupertino Room



Saturday

# Presentation of Project at CSW CSW 68 Parallel Event

**CSW 68 PARALLEL EVENT**

## HOPE SPRINGS: Youth Welfare and Global Initiatives Beyond Borders

**SHARING LIGHT AROUND THE WORLD**  
GIVELIGHT FOUNDATION  
NOSHABA AFZAL

**NURTURING FUTURES: A WORKSHOP SERIES ON  
EMPOWERING YOUTH IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES**  
YOUTHLINK  
ZEYNEP BILGINAN ET AL.

**WATER-WELL PROJECT**  
UVEYIKS  
NEŞE OGUZ ET AL.

**MARCH 16TH, 2024**

[CLICK HERE FOR ZOOM LINK](#) [CLICK HERE FOR YOUTUBE LINK](#)

**11:30 AM (PST) | 2:30 PM (EST)**





FROM

# RISE- Blossomville Ramadan Program



TO

# Blossomville

Blooming to the future

Join us this spring for a 2-day Ramadan program!

Day 1

Saturday, March 16

## 1.) Ramadan & Worshipping Allah

by Bilal Sarimeseli

## 2.) TBA

by stay tuned :)

Day 2

Sunday, March 17

## 1.) Personal Experiences of Embarking on a Spiritual Journey

by Ibrahim Okuyucu

## 2.) Wisdom of Hunger Spiritual & Psychological Perspectives

by Diler Bilgin

“When Ramadan begins, the gates of Paradise are opened and the gates of Hell are closed, and the devils are put in chains.”

(Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 1899, Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 1079)

Each day will begin with Dhuhr prayer followed by a **seminar, discussion**, and independent **reading** hour. Iftar included on day 1.

Dates: **March 16th & 17th**

Start time: **1:30pm**

@ **Mindrome** - 4701 Patrick Henry Dr. BLDG 3, Santa Clara, CA 95054

All are welcome :)

For **more info** and to **register**:

<https://tinyurl.com/blossomville2024>

**Participation Fee:**

**\$10 total**



Saturday

## BAYCC Highschool Girls Iftar

Liseli kız öğrenciler tüm arkadaşlarıyla birlikte keyifli iftar yemeği geçirebilmek için hazırlıklarını tamamladı.

YOU ARE INVITED TO BAYCC'S 3RD  
ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

### Ramadan Iftar

*Dinner*

**Saturday, March 16**

6pm - 9:30pm | 266 Escuela Ave, Mountain  
View, CA 94040

**Dinner - Presentation - Prayers -  
Live Music Kahoot - Gifts**





Sunday

# BAYCC University Girls Youth Iftar 2024

Youth Iftar

*17 Mart @6 pm*



BayCC University Girls  
& YouthLink 's

Homeless food distribution project



*24 Mart*





Sunday

## Youth Iftar 2024

The background of the flyer features a light beige marble texture. On the left, two yellow lanterns hang from thin lines. On the right, a green olive branch with several leaves extends across the top. A large, intricate yellow mandala is partially visible on the far right edge. In the center, the BAYCC logo (a red bridge over the text 'BAYCC') is positioned above the main title. Below the title is a silhouette of a person in a traditional Middle Eastern dance pose. At the bottom, there are icons for a calendar, a location pin, a musical note, a gift box, and a game controller, each followed by text describing the event details and activities.

  
**Bay Area Youth  
Ramadan  
Dinner**

**Come join us for our Youth  
Ramadan Iftar.**

*Rsvp*

 **March 17th  
2024, 6:45 pm**

 **266 Escuela Avenue  
Mountain View, CA  
94040**

 **Music**

 **Gifts**

 **Games**





Sunday

## Interfaith Iftar Dinner at Congregation Netivot Shalom, Berkeley

### RAMADAN INTERFAITH IFTAR DINNER



SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH, 2024

6:00 – 9:00 PM

CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM

1316 UNIVERSITY AVE BERKELEY, CA 94702

You are warmly invited to our 15th annual Interfaith Iftar hosted by Netivot Shalom and Pacifica Institute. We will have an uplifting evening of connecting, learning, dining, and enjoying each other's company. There will be a program with Sufi music and speakers, and then, at sunset (about 7:30pm), we'll hear the Islamic call to prayer and those observing Ramadan will break their fast. Then we shall all sit down for an Iftar together. (Iftar is the evening meal during Ramadan. It is eaten after sunset and after a day of fasting.) We will eat a delicious meal family style at round tables, while getting to know our tablemates. It is always a powerful experience.

All are encouraged to come and connect!

We hope you'll join us.

PLEASE RSVP [HERE](#)





Thursday

## Müslüman Veliler İftarı

Çocuklarınızın okuduğu okullardaki müslüman arkadaşları ve ailelerini davet edebileceğiniz iftar programına bekliyoruz.

# Join us For a Joyous Ramadan Potluck Iftar

Let's break our fast together in the spirit of unity, gratitude, and celebration. Your presence will add to the warmth of our gathering.

**Thursday, 21 March, 2024**

**at 07:00 Pm - 08:30 Pm**

**4701 Patrick Henry Dr. Building 18**  
**Santa Clara**

**REGISTER HERE**





Saturday

## Interfaith Iftar Dinner at St Paul United Methodist Church, Fremont



Pacifica Institute, St Paul United Methodist Church, and Tri-City Interfaith Council cordially  
**invite you to**

*Interfaith Iftar Dinner*  
*"Connecting Communities and  
Preventing Loneliness"*

**Saturday, Mar 23, 2024**

**6:00 pm - 8:30 pm**

Hosted at St Paul United Methodist Church, Fremont  
33350 Peace Terrace, Fremont, CA 94555

*RSVP*

[shorturl.at/alG19](https://shorturl.at/alG19)



Wednesday

## Müslüman Komşular İftarı

Müslüman komşularınızı kültür merkezimizde ağırlayıp diğer müslümanlarla tanışma imkanı bulacakları iftar programımıza bekliyoruz.

### RAMADAN POTLUCK IFTAR

1

CHECK-IN STARTS AT 6:45 PM

2

QUR'AN RECITATION &amp; WELCOME SPEECH

3

ADHAN &amp; DUA

4

MAGHRIB PRAYER

5

IFTAR DINNER

6

TARAWEEH AT 9:15 PM







Thursday

# Interfaith Iftar Dinner at Temple Sholom, Burlingame

Thursday, March 28

## Iftar Interfaith Panel Discussion & Dinner

6:00 musical program

6:30 clergy panel discussion

7:30 break fast and dinner

Peninsula Temple Sholom  
1655 Sebastian Drive, Burlingame

RSVP by March 22  
[rsvp/form/iftar](#)



Thursday

## Interfaith Iftar Dinner at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

### Ramadan: The Month of Connecting Communities

You're Invited to a special event where we come together to embrace the spirit of Ramadan. Join us for an evening of unity, reflection, and joy as we celebrate this sacred month.

With interfaith prayers for peace, distinguished speakers, the Islamic Call to Prayer (Adhan), food, and conversations, all are invited to share the Ramadan joy among friends.

Grace Cathedral  
Gresham Hall  
1100 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

Thursday, April 4, 6:45 PM

6:45 PM Doors open

7:00 p.m. Program and Prayers

7:40 p.m. Sunset – Iftar Dinner

Click here to [RSVP](#)



UPCOMING  
Events

Friday

# Salaam Stanford MSU Iftar

Stanford Muslim Student Union ile beraber organizasyonunu yaptığımız iftar programına bu sene konuşmacı olarak Respect Graduate School öğretim görevlilerinden Yusuf Rios katılacaktır. Sizleri de bekliyoruz.



## RAMADAN IFTAR

**Donate**  
MSU Ramadan Fund



**RSVP**  
if Salaam Volunteer



Stanford | El Centro Chicano y Latino

You are cordially invited to Ramadan Iftar  
on April 5th Friday - 7 pm at Old Union Courtyard.  
Imam Yusuf Rios will give Khatira.



Sh. Yusuf Rios has studied Islamic Psychology and Tradition at Al-Azhar University, Egypt. He teaches Islamic studies and Arabic Language. He has general and specialized licenses (Ijazah) in the Hadith Sciences. He is the Religious Director of Masjid Services - Respect Graduate School in Pennsylvania

RESPECT GRADUATE SCHOOL



Saturday

## Afro-American Muslim Community Iftar

Afro American Muslim Community'den dostlarımızı ağırlayacağımız iftar programına evsahibi olarak sizlerin de katılımı bizi onurlandıracaktır.

### Join us For a Joyous Ramadan Iftar

Let's break our fast together in the spirit of unity, gratitude, and celebration. Your presence will add to the warmth of our gathering.

**Saturday, 6 April, 2024**  
**at 07:00 Pm - 09:00 Pm**  
**4701 Patrick Henry Dr. Building 18**  
**Santa Clara**

[\*\*REGISTER HERE\*\*](#)



# 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.



Join our **WhatsApp**  
community