



CAMYL CONNECT



Letter from the Editors

“No one has ever become poor by giving” (Anne Frank). This past quarter for CAMYL has been one of service and identity. Community outreach has helped us connect within our team and to people outside our organization, in a meaningful and unforgettable way. Service truly became something that was enriching for both the individual and the people that were being served.

As we pursued ways to bring communities together, we also found moments to appreciate our roots. Whether it was a partnership with a youth arts center in Kerala or it was conducting Malayalam class for local students, CAMYL stayed true to its mission of emphasizing our cultural identity.

**From the CAMYL
Director:**

Sunil Varghese



Despite facing many challenges over the past years, CAMYL team successfully completed two quarters by building on our strengths and capacities to do even better. With great joy and delectation, we are releasing the second edition of CAMYL CONNECT!! The second quarter of 2022 represents a good time to synthesize our recent accomplishments and future directions that we have nailed to engage our youth and bring them to be the part of the community. Our team received overwhelming response from the National, Regional, and Local Communities on CAMYL newsletter initiative that exhibited our youths writing and artistic skills. As they continue to thrive in their abilities, and we would like to make use of their talent as a community and recognize them to the best of their abilities.



Letter from the Editors (*cont.*)

Moreover, we organized events for our youth to have fun and celebrate summer before school began again. The mix of staying present and bringing back the past embodies almost every student and CAMYL; and furthering that is what we hope to encourage.

In this issue, and hopefully issues in the future, we hope that service and identity continue to be a theme as our youth pursue what brings them true joy.

Meet the Editors



Meryl Mathew,
President



Annmary Antony,
Secretary



Elisa Varghese,
Vice President

From the CAMYL Director - Sunil Varghese (*cont.*)

Over the past two quarters, CAMYL successfully executed few events that benefited our youth and parents. Main events were:

Webinar: Unveiling Academic Success webinar was conducted for our youth and parents from distinguished achievers from our own community. In addition to the CAMYL members, the live webinar was attended by kids and parents. If you like to have access to the webinar, it can be accessed from our recorded section at MANCA website.

CAMYL Solidarity Event: CAMYL Solidarity event is one example of bringing better value to the community. This program was to support specially abled kids at Different Art Centre, Trivandrum. CAMYL team interacted with Mr. Gopinath Muthukad (Director of Different Art center) and Specially abled children at Different Art Center and surprised them with special gifts that they packed to show their support and thoughtfulness. We were able to telecast the solidarity event live for those who were not able to be present in person. CAMYL was able conduct fund raising and sponsored three kids at Different Art Centre for a period of one year.

Community Collaboration: CAMYL Collaborated with online Malayalam class for kids in association with St. Stephen's Church San Jose. It was a huge success and many kids from our community participated in the class and showed interest in learning our native language.

Bowling Party: CAMYL Bowling party was conducted to engage youth in social activities as part of the networking and connecting back with our community. We will be adding more social activities that promote better values to our younger generation.

Through it all, we have been supported by youth leadership and our community with generous sponsorships. CAMYL board and its leadership team, are further investing in different creative ideas that will deliver many more accomplishments that reflects the face of our future community! Thank you for all you do to build a better culturally connected generation. Enjoy the summer and continue to stay safe.



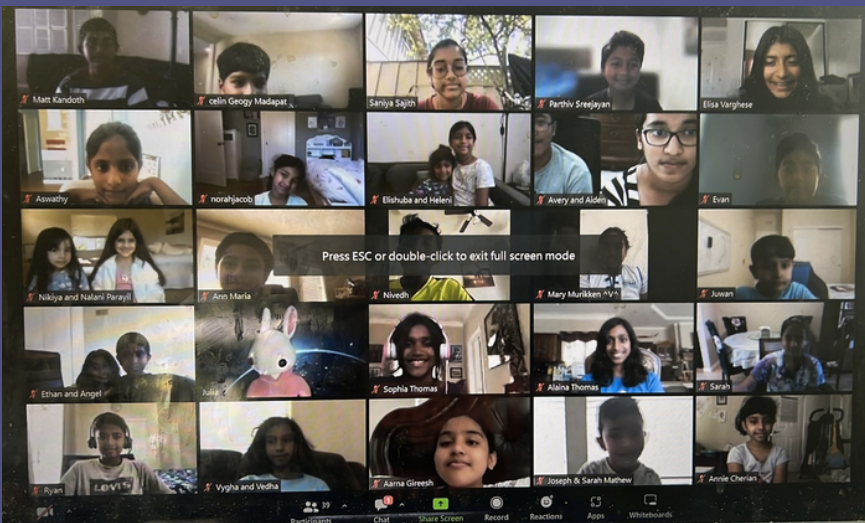
From the CAMYL Co-director - *Padmapriya Palottu*



Through Camyl, our aim is to bring awareness among the youth within our community and inspire kids to get involved in charitable activities within the community. With that mission, we organize several events throughout the year that help to develop creativity, kindness, passion and togetherness among the youth.

Our vision for Camyl is to cultivate a group of children that are giving back to our community. With public-spirited events such as our Solidarity Event at the Different Arts Center, we hope to introduce our members to a more compassionate and humanitarian way of life and eventually have them help others out of the goodness of their own heart.

Malayalam Class: CAMYL x St. Stephen's SOC, San Jose



This past summer, we had a very successful event paired with St. Stephen's Syriac Orthodox Church in San Jose! Over 60 responses, 50 students, and almost 35 certificate-holders! Students ranging from the ages of 4 to 14 were eager to learn the letters of the Malayalam Alphabet, small words, and get back to the roots of their culture! In addition, for those ready to move on to sentences and poems, Intermediate Classes were offered, taught by two senior teachers. Missed this wonderful opportunity? Not to worry, we'll be back next summer, stronger than ever! It's never too late to learn!

Malayalam Worksheet #1

അ	ആ	ഇ	ഈ	ഉ	ഊ	ഋ
(aa)	(aaA)	(ai)	(aiE)	(oo)	(ooO)	(ru)
അ	ആ	ഇ	ഈ	ഉ	ഊ	ഋ





Ethan Lebon
Ex-Treasurer



Jayden Pulickal
Ex-Board of Director



Pavitra Shome
Ex- Jt. Secretary

Congratulations

Batch-2022

CAMYL EX-OFFICIALS



Ryan Alappatt
Ex-Vice President



Shona Sajan
Ex-President

Best Wishes from CAMYL Team





CAMYL Goes Bowling!

On August 6th, the CAMYL team engaged in a bowling event. Along with friends and siblings, our team had lots of fun socializing and bowling with each other. With over 20 kids attending and food for everyone, it's safe to say this bowling party was a huge success. Thank you to the sponsors, parents, and CAMYL team who made the event possible. Social events like this are what makes CAMYL so fun and special. Keep watch for any new events from the CAMYL team in the future!





Event Recap: College Success Webinar!

On June 3rd, CAMYL hosted the informational webinar, "Unveiling Academic Success" featuring a diverse group of talented young people from our own community to share their insight on their academic journeys. This event was a huge success and livestreamed for everyone in the Malayalee community to learn from and understand the college and career process better from the perspective of American students who have gone through it. Thank you to our moderators Meryl Mathew and Anmmary Antony, our five esteemed guest speakers Alice Mathew, Eva Rian, Rachel Kavalakatt, Rayan Narayanswamy, and Sanjay Sreekumar, and our sponsors CEFERTS and UCEazy. The answers and advice shared in this event will certainly be helpful to students pursuing any career path at any stage of their academic journeys!

"Focus on doing your best because that's all you really can do, and focus on relying on your support systems."
- Rachel

"The point of college is to understand and explore."
- Sanjay

"Stay hydrated, rested, and motivated, and surround yourself with people with drive and goals."
- Eva

"Don't put too much on your plate but take classes that you're actually passionate about...and take advantage of your time."
- Alice

CAMYL
(CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF MALAYALEE YOUTH LEAGUE)

PIONEER CONNECT

UNVEILING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

LIVE WEBINAR
Guest Speakers

- ALICE MATHEW**
Major in WMBIA, Fish and Conservation Biology
- EVA RIAN**
Rising 2L at Emory University School of Law
- RACHEL KAVALAKATT**
2nd Year of Medical Integrated BSMD program at Florida Atlantic University
- RAYAN NARAYANSWAMY**
Fresh High School Graduate, Biomedical Engineering at UC Davis
- SANJAY SREEKUMAR**
Software Engineer - UC Berkeley Graduate, major in Computer Science and Business Administration

18 JUNE SATURDAY **ZOOM Meeting ID: 883 7611 0586** **04:00 PM**
Passcode: 011133

Live experience Sharing and Q&A session with the most distinguished achievers from our own community

Program Moderators

- ANMMARY ANTONY** CAMYL SECRETARY
- MERYL MATHEW** CAMYL PRESIDENT

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SUNIL VARGHESE - 510-495-4778 (CAMYL DIRECTOR)
PADMAPRIYA PALOTTU - 408-518-2734 (CAMYL CO-DIRECTOR)



Literary Submissions

Want your work to be featured in the next edition? Submit art and/or writing to the form at camyl.org/camyl-connect/, or email us at camylonline@gmail.com

Second-hand Smoking - Opinion

Hi, my name is Leon Varghese, and I will cover the effects of secondhand smoke on others. Many smokers reside in the U.S, but many innocent people who do not smoke still get the impact of smoking because they inhale secondhand smoke when near smokers. Inhaling secondhand smoke is pretty much similar to directly smoking.

Both direct smoking and inhaling secondhand smoke have similar health effects. They both cause cancer and severe health problems that might kill you. Although direct smoking impacts and causes worse problems, people don't even smoke and get the same effects which are very unfair.

Secondhand smoke is when others unintentionally inhale tobacco smoke. Secondhand smoke causes numerous health problems to infants and children, including more frequent and severe

asthma attacks, respiratory infections, ear infections, and sudden infant death syndrome. Most people are usually only exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes or workplaces. However, many people may be exposed to secondhand smoke in public places for example bars, restaurants, and casinos, as well as in their vehicles.

To avoid secondhand smoke, eat at smoke-free restaurants, avoid indoor public places that allow smoking, and teach your children to stay away from smokers. If not, exposure to the particles produced by secondhand smoke could be even more significant, significantly increasing your health risk. Stay at least 5 feet away from a smoker and use a face mask to protect your breathing from them. Even a

five-minute exposure to secondhand smoke can negatively impact your health. It can cause cancer, breathing difficulties, pain, etc.

In conclusion, just because some people enjoy smoking doesn't mean Secondhand smoke should harm innocent people. Let us stay away and take these precautions so we can all be safe from the effects of tobacco smoke. We should stop these smokers or make them smoke in areas where there aren't any non-smokers.

- Leon Varghese

7th grade



Europe's Heatwaves - Global news

Climate change has been an ongoing and rapidly approaching problem for over 40 years, and recent events in Europe prove that it isn't going to slow down. In June and July of 2022, heat waves spread across Europe, causing wildfires, evacuations, and heat-related injuries and deaths. Across Europe heat records were shattered, as many areas reached an all time high in temperature. Heat warnings were sent across the continent, and wildfires broke out in France, Spain, Portugal, and numerous other countries. Heat waves, according to scientists, will only increase in frequency and intensity

at a faster rate than any other part of the planet. Global warming seems to play a role in this as temperatures are on average two degrees higher than they were in the late 19th century. "Climate change drives heat in two ways," states Mariam Zachariah a climate scientist at the Imperial College London. One way is as more heat gets trapped in on Earth, the atmosphere will warm. A warmer atmosphere will mean more heat extremes. Climate change also changes weather patterns, meaning it brings heat to regions that don't normally experience them. This is what happened to Europe, as the heat waves were due to warm air being brought up to Europe from North Africa. This will get worse in

the incoming years, bringing with it more heatstroke and heat exhaustion, serious conditions that could be fatal. Wildfires will also become more frequent, scorching areas such as France, where people have already evacuated due to fires burning through over 10,000 hectares. Even if governments follow their pledges to reduce emissions, heat waves will still become more frequent. This means that governments must work on more long term heat action plans, such as planting trees and building heat resistant homes. The rest of the world will also experience increasing heatwaves, and Europe will not be the only one affected.



- Steven Benny,
5th grade



The Dog Chase - Short Story

While I was on the staircase in my house, I saw my mom's phone on the counter. I came downstairs, thinking that she left it on accident, and I went outside to find her. As the door opened to the crisp, cold night air, I called her. "Mom?" Just then, a white blur raced past me; it was my furry, white dog, Jacky!

Ammu, my sister, rushed out the door, apologizing profusely, saying how the collar slipped out of her hands. Angrily, I turned around and realized my dog had crossed the street. At that moment, I was wearing a t-shirt, my sweatshirt, and a pair of black tights. This has happened many times before, but he had only run around the five houses around our house. I wasn't wearing any shoes because I didn't have time before he was out of sight. As I ran, trying to find him, the gravel from the road pierced through the thin tights and scratched my skin. I didn't care.

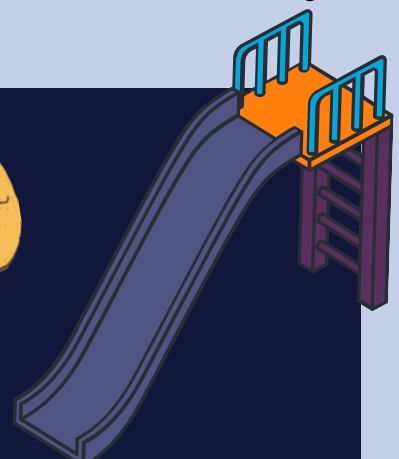
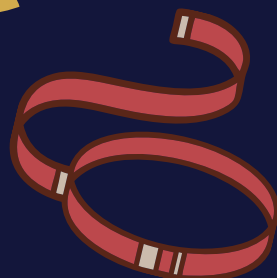
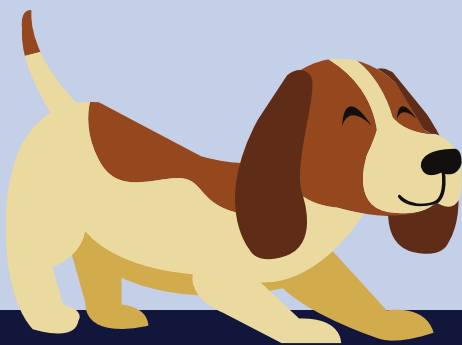
"Ammu! Where are you?" I cried, as I ran across the streets, following my dog. I heard her scooter as it sped down the sidewalk. Just then, a car screeched right in front of me, and I just stood in shock as Jacky dodged it, narrowly missing the corner.

Jacky ran through the grass of the park across the street from my house as I could just watch. I called him so many times that my throat started to ache and my chest was hurting. The wet grass soaked my feet, as I felt hot tears streaming down my face. A man in the park saw my dog and helped me catch him, but his fur slipped through my fingers. Another car sped toward him as he ran and this time I signaled for it to stop so he wouldn't get crashed into. A group of dogs stood on the sidewalk on the other side of the park. I saw my dog interacting with them, and the owner was holding his collar in his hands.

My dog, now in my arms, squirmed as I thanked the owner through my sobs, and I started trudging home. My feet were wet, and I scolded my dog so much that he started whining. As I walked up the street, my neighbor Maggie came out holding a leash and a bag of treats for Jacky. "Where was he?" Maggie asked. I told her how he had run to the playground at the park. She said that I could borrow the leash and bring it back the next day.

Later that night, I hugged my dog tight and went and returned the leash. I learned my lesson that day to always watch out for my pup before stepping out of the house.

- **Nandana Nambiar,**
7th grade





A “Small” Crime With A Lasting Impact – Informational

Lots of us know about identity theft, and how it’s affected us. [The United States Department of Justice](#) defines identity theft as the crime in which someone uses personal information deceptively, usually for money. But, despite being called a “crime”, around 9 million people lose their identities per year according to [definefinancial.com](#). So, why does it happen so frequently?

According to [Allstate](#), identity theft starts when personal data, like your social security number (SSN), gets leaked somehow. Personal information gets exposed through hacking, phishing, data breaches, etc. How do these imposters get away with it though? [An interview with an identity thief](#) shows that these thieves get away with identity theft in the sneakiest ways possible. “I would walk up to the house and take mail out of mailboxes,” she said. “I’d walk up like I’m selling something or like I was lost because I don’t look like a criminal.” Committing crime online is easy to get away with using all the online resources we have now.

So, with identity theft being defined, it’s no surprise that this crime can affect people in many, many ways. In fact,

it already has. How? Lifelock.com says victims can be affected financially, socially, and emotionally/physically. Identity thieves can have full access to whatever financial information you have, so they can use it in any way they want. The victim then has to try cleaning up the mess the thief made so no more money is lost and this doesn’t happen again (ex: cleaning up and closing compromised bank accounts, and opening new accounts). If the identity thief hacked onto a very active social media account, they could pretend as the owner and maybe even ruin the owner’s social life. When victims find out about identity theft, they might panic, feel fearful, and in worse cases, suicidal.

And hey, this can even happen to you! So, how can you protect yourself from identity theft? First of all, check for all warning signs. According to [nerdwallet.com](#), some warning signs are:

- Changes in credit scores
- Calls from credit card companies that sound fishy
- SSN already in use
- Unknown activity
- Unauthorized transactions
- False accusations



Even when you see this activity around your account, it definitely doesn’t mean that it’s the end of it. In order to prevent identity theft, it’s important to:

1. Safeguard your SSN
2. Be alert to phishing and spoofing
3. Use strong passwords and add an authentication step
4. Use alerts
5. Watch your mailbox
6. Shred physical credit card, bank, or investment statements
7. Use a digital wallet
8. Protect mobile devices
9. Check credit reports regularly
10. Monitor financial and medical statements

As illegal as identity theft is, it’s sadly very common. Lots of people slip up by accidentally exposing personal information, which is gold for these thieves. As mentioned earlier, identity theft can take a toll on your money, social life, and emotions. Because of how common this crime is, it’s important to take the necessary precautions so that little to no damage is done to your identity as a whole. And, with one step at a time, we can all soon end identity theft once and for all.

- **Tina Rajesh**
8th grade,





Searching for Cerulean Seas - Book Review

Picture this! You're a 40 year old simple, quiet, lonely, objective man working a skin deep job in a rain soaked city living a colorless life; oh, and your cat hates you. Not so appealing right...Now picture this, you're still a 40 year old man but now being sent to observe a highly classified case sent to you by Extremely Upper Management, one which might make or break your career and send you into the swirl of challenge and life you never knew you needed. Sounds more interesting now doesn't it?

Well this fellow book enthusiast is the very basis of Linus Baker's story and character in the captivating book, "The House in the Cerulean Sea", by TJ Klune. Linus Baker is a rule following, quiet, careful, lonely, and simple man who works for a government branch called DICOMY (Department in Charge of Magical Youths); his work mainly consists of visiting "orphanages" and making sure the magical children living in them are being taken care of properly. Linus handles his job with care, he views all the homes as objectively as possible while still giving a most comprehensive report of the children's care, but as soon as he files the report he makes no efforts in checking where these children go and if, in where they are now, they feel safe and, most importantly, loved. So when this nothing but ordinary man gets called up to Extremely Upper Management, and is asked to handle a top secret case, he is a little more than frightened...he's terrified. If only Linus knew that he'd be going to a place more important than he could've ever dreamed!

This House in the Cerulean Sea is overflowing with comedic and thought-provokingly wise dialogue joined by a glimmering hope in the face of all the prejudice and challenge held in the pages. Whether you read fiction, non-fiction, or are 11 or 73, I highly encourage you to read this book and here is why:

- If I had to pick a corner of the world to live in forever this would be my corner. The book

- takes place in a breathtaking setting; one that, as you're reading about it says, "Don't you wish you were here?". As I was saying, the book primarily resides in a beautiful island by a cerulean sea, the island is filled with luscious green forests and sandy beaches, sounds alot like paradise! All the settings and descriptions are well thought and perfectly put into place throughout every crevice of the story. "Don't you wish you were here?" Yes, I do.
- The book, while being a beautiful story, is also such a deep piece of literature. It holds some of the simplest but hardest lessons to swallow, it has plenty of literary elements, and it is a timeless piece of work that will still warm the hearts of people living 100 years from now. The story tackles the bravery to take control of your life, how prejudice can rule the world sometimes, how to fight back, and how to be whole, happy, and loved. While reading this thing you may be saying this book seems simple, you're right it's very unlike the genius sci-fi books that get turned into Steven Spielberg movies. But this book is kind and humble. Every aspect of it will, in almost a healing manner, take you step by step into the most comforting embrace that is filled with contentedness. It will make you feel like your soul is being hugged and will tell you what courage is and what life is all about.

Hopefully with all that information I was able to convince you to read TJ Klune's masterpiece. But if not yet let me leave you with this quote that I think sums up the experience of this book:

"You're too precious to put into words. I think ... it's like one of Theodore's buttons. If you asked him why he cared about them so, he would tell you it's because they exist at all."

— T.J. Klune, The House in the Cerulean Sea
Recommended for ages 11 and up

- **Aarna Nair,**
10th grade





CAMYL Event at the Different Art Centre in Trivandrum!

On July 21st, CAMYL members who were in India had a special lunch with the specially-abled kids at the Different Art Centre in Trivandrum! They were able to spend time with the renowned motivational speaker, Dr. Gopinath Muthukad, and his children at the centre. Our members were blessed to have the opportunity to serve these children food and then experience their numerous art performances afterward! When the specially-abled children opened the packages that the CAMYL team prepared for them a few weeks in advance, the smiles on their faces were enough to make our members feel at home and happy. In addition, our CAMYL team was able to raise around \$6000 to sponsor three kids at the center. This event was truly a success, and thank you to everyone who supported us!





"The Camyl Solidarity event at the Different Arts Center was incredibly beneficial and inspiring for me. I was fortunate enough to be a part of every step of the process, from writing letters and packing candy for the students to filling the gift boxes and lastly, visiting the center and meeting these wonderful children. Interacting with differently-abled children was a heartening experience and I had the chance to meet with multiple people I would have not been able to otherwise. From serving them food to watching them show off their various talents, the hours spent in preparation for and the final event were incredibly fulfilling. In conclusion, the event was a huge success and I cannot wait to partake in future events with Camyl."

- Krishna Nair, CAMYL Treasurer



**more from the
CAMYL solidarity
event**

Art Gallery



Parvathy Nair, 12th grade



Selina Nidhiri
8th grade



Amelia Benny,
4th grade



Tina Rajesh, 8th grade



Meryl Mathew, 12th grade



Thank you for reading!

Want your work to be featured in the next edition?

Submit art and/or writing to the form at camyl.org/camyl-connect/, or email us at camylonline@gmail.com



To join CAMYL visit:

camyl.org/camyl-registration

Thank you to all our event sponsors, and make sure to keep an eye out for upcoming CAMYL events!



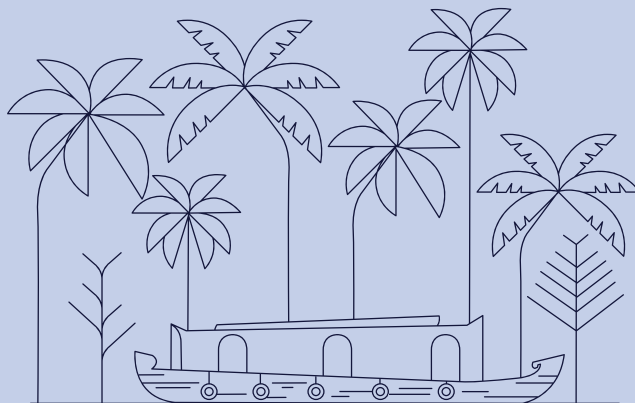
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