



CAMYL CONNECT



Letter from the Editors

Throughout these last few months of 2022, as the year was winding down, CAMYL's central themes really started to shine throughout as we started to roll through events. The dominant idea of giving back to the community has always been a phrase said throughout meetings, events, and amongst each other, in respect to what we can do to better the community we live in. And even though 2022 was coming to end, CAMYL's reach only furthered. We were able to hold at least one event every month, with some months having multiple. Every single week, we were asked questions about CAMYL concerning how to join, what we do, and why we do it.

From the CAMYL Director - Sunil Varghese



Happy New Year! Let's Connect our Youth by CAMYL CONNECT!!

With great joy and delight we are releasing our third edition of CAMYL CONNECT. The third quarter of 2022 represents the fruitful time of the year that showered CAMYL team with great accomplishments. It provided ample opportunities for our CAMYL team to get together and to be the part of our community and community giving. CAMYL achieved the credit to be the certified organization to issue the Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) to recognize our youth for their community services through CAMYL/MANCA platform. Please visit CAMYL website for details on all our community activities.



Letter from the Editors, cont'd

All this feedback fueled our upcoming events and we are overjoyed that people are reflecting on what we do and actually interacting with it. We hope that in the coming year CAMYL can be a household name, an organization that can hold events that shape our youth to be better people, because in the end, that truly is our goal. Happy New Year!

Meet the Editors



Neil Alappatt
Board Member



Niranjana Sankar
President

Letter from CAMYL Director, cont'd

Some of the spotlighted CAMYL events from October to November 2022:

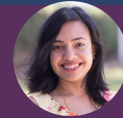
- Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) for Community Services
- CAMYL Winter Coats and Blanket Drive (Completed twice as per multiple community request)
- CAMYL Nursing Home and Senior Living Center visits
- CAMYL Nativity show
- CAMYL Cupcakes for Mentally ill population at Bay Area Hospitals
- CAMYL CONNECT

My heartfelt gratitude to our community, event sponsors, and leadership in supporting CAMYL team in all activities that helped to raise the bar to develop a great CONNECTED generation. We have an overwhelming request from our community on future projects that would benefit our community and is currently under planning. CAMYL board and its leadership team are planning to invest in different creative ideas that will deliver many more accomplishments and depicts the face of our future community. Thank you for all you do to build a better culturally connected generation! From all of us at the CAMYL team, we wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2023!!

Sunil Varghese
CAMYL Director and MANCA Vice President



From the CAMYL Co-director - *Padmapriya Palottu*



Happy New Year! As we enter the New Year, I am proud to acknowledge that 2022 was an excellent year for Camyl. We started off the year with a visit to the non-profit organization "Kids Against Hunger" where Camyl kids and volunteers got an opportunity to pack nutritious meals for thousands of kids and families suffering from Ukraine War. From April 2022, Camyl started a Newsletter, CAMYL Connect, in which kids get an opportunity to exhibit their artistic and literary skills as well as accomplishments. Camyl hosted a webinar called "Unveiling Academic Success" in June where talented and successful youth within our community shared their insight on their academic journey. The Camyl Solidarity event at the Different Arts Center Trivandrum was a remarkable one. The Camyl team packed special gifts for the kids at DAC. We also got the opportunity to interact with Mr. Gopinath Muthucaud and also had lunch with the kids. Before the beginning of a new academic year, Camyl team organized a bowling event where kids had fun time with their friends and siblings. A winter drive was organized and members got together to donate jackets and blankets for the needy. Camyl finished off the year with a caroling event at a senior living center and a distribution of cupcakes to mentally challenged individuals at Valley Medical Center. Finally, the year ended off with Manca Christmas, in which Camyl kids led the caroling. With eminent leadership, Camyl was able to add many new members this year. We are planning to organize more events in 2023 where kids will get further opportunities to get involved with the community. With that mission, we organize several events throughout the year that help to develop creativity, kindness, passion, and togetherness among the youth.

CAMYL Membership Drive Campaigns September 2022



Just this past September, the CAMYL Team had a very exciting opportunity to speak with the youth of our community at MANCA's Onam Celebration. We were able to have individual conversations with many children in elementary and middle school about how they can best give back to their community and even how they might be able to join our team. As a team, one of our biggest mottos is that CAMYL isn't just a couple of high-schoolers. CAMYL is our entire youth community and we are thrilled to add on anyone to help give back.



CAMYL's Winter Coats and Blankets Drive November 2022

As part of the Community giving, the CAMYL Team conducted a Winter Drive to support the less fortunate people of the Bay Area. Our youth collected more than 20+ boxes of blankets and coats as a part of this drive and donated them to the homeless shelters. We are constantly trying to find new ways to help those around us and this is just one event that exemplifies the reason of why giving back to our community is so important.





President Biden's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) – November 2022

We are ecstatic to announce that CAMYL has become a Certifying Organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award. This entitles all of our members to obtaining this award for a certain amount of service hours. We hope that in the coming years, we can only encourage our youth to join our team and work towards building a better community.



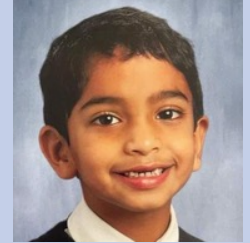


Literary Submissions

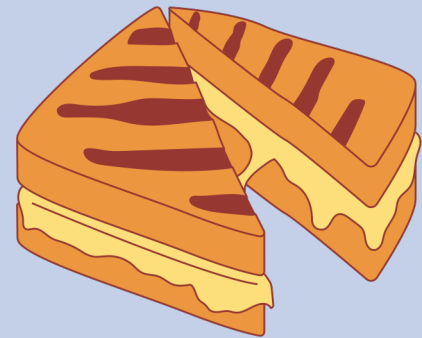
Want your work to be featured in the next edition? Submit art and/or writing to the form at camyl.org/camyl-connect/, or email us at camylonline@gmail.com

Monster Cheese Sandwich - Fictional Piece

Cheese Sandwich used his car to arrive at the school. He sat at his desk and listened to his teacher. At lunch he had a lettuce, cheese, pattie, and tomato sandwich. When the students finished recess he distortedly saw a monster. He thought it was just his imagination. The teacher took everyone to class. When it was midnight he woke up. Then he randomly drove to school and waited for the "monster to appear" as it was said in his dream. The monster was not there after waiting a lot, so he jumped the fence. When he walked around he saw a cave. He went into the dark cave and a big sluggish monster started to follow him. He started to run so fast that he could not breathe. The monster kept on following. He got to his car and drove home speedily. He took a large machete and found him at his own BACKYARD! The monster just laughed and cut the cheese sandwich until blood started pouring out unstopably. He almost died but he never gave up, with his anger and rage he slayed the monster to its end as the deep cut started to heal. Many years later as the monster slayer was the legend,"MONSTER CHEESE SANDWICH"



- **Daniel Joseph**
2nd grade



Louie

- Poetry

**AMID ALL THE CHAOS AND CONFUSION OF THE PANDEMIC,
THE UNFORGIVING VIRUS, COLD AND UNSYMPATHETIC
THERE IS SOME LIGHT,
HOWEVER SMALL, IT STILL BURNS BRIGHT**

**HE CAME HOME ONE DAY, AN ADORABLE DACHSHUND PUPPY NAMED LOUIE
HE IS CUTEST, WE ALL AGREE
WITH LONG SILKY EARS,
AND A SOFT BROWN GAZE THAT ENDEARS**

**HIS TINY LITTLE PAWS, PADDED WITH BLACK,
WOULD SCURRY AROUND, ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A SNACK
HE IS VERY MISCHIEVOUS,
TO ALL THE HAVOC HE WREAKS, HE IS OBLIVIOUS**

**BUT DESPITE ALL THE TROUBLE,
HE IS WORTH ALL THE STRUGGLE,
FOR EVERYTHING HE BRINGS INTO MY LIFE, I AM EXTREMELY THANKFUL,
THE JOY, LAUGHTER, PEACE, AND TRANQUIL**



- **Ameya Kezhukkettu,**
9th grade



Pioneer Sharing - Eva Rian, 2L at Emory Law



In third grade, I was convinced I'd be a flower seller. Pygmalion was one of my favorite childhood books. Reading *The Rainmaker* after middle school sparked an interest in law that could have been similarly transient. However, you never know where life will take you.

In high school, I found my strengths in reading and writing. Public forum debate sharpened my critical thinking skills, but my true passion was Mock Trial, which exposed me to practicing lawyers and judges. Those connections led me to Peer Court, where I advocated for first-time juvenile offenders in real cases.

While I enjoyed my legal-oriented extracurriculars, my parents were reasonably worried about the viability of an actual career in law. When I was in high school, less than 5% of lawyers in the U.S. were Asian American. There were, and are, no statistics regarding what percent of U.S. lawyers are Indian American. All of the first and second generation Indians I knew were nurses, doctors, computer engineers, etc. Accordingly, I spent the summer between my sophomore and junior year at Stanford, learning about different careers in the life sciences. After telling my parents about my favorite lecture from a bioethics lawyer, even they acquiesced to the apparently inevitable.

My family's support was invaluable as I set about figuring out whether being a lawyer was right for me as well as what type of law I might pursue. Interning with my county's Board of Supervisors exposed me to local politics and community efforts, but didn't appeal to me as a career. Obtaining my bachelor's degree in international relations less than an hour away from the United Nations helped me build a global mindset, but diplomacy didn't seem like my calling. Working at the Public Defender's Office and later as a middle school educator gave me important experience, but perhaps my most valuable takeaway was the inexorable pull I felt towards law school. As I explored different areas and careers where I could use my natural strengths, I was always drawn to the legal aspects of my work - education law, international law, etc.

Finding that certainty required years of navigating life's twists and turns (like a global pandemic) but gave me the resolve one should have for law school - three years of time and money is no small matter. However, even my longest readings and most challenging writing have been as exhilarating as they were stressful. I have the privilege to tackle great ideas that shape our society and help others who wish to do the same.

This summer, I will be at a firm where I will have the opportunity to work in different areas of law. Years from now, I may find myself in an entirely different setting. After all, our paths to success are often less than straight, but rather dark and unknowable. Mine has surprisingly taken me to New Jersey, Georgia, and soon New York. I do not know where my next turn will take me, but at this point, that's part of the fun.



Avatar: The Way of the Water - Movie Recommendation

The movie Avatar: The Way of the Water is a sequel to the original movie Avatar. Which was released this year. This movie is a sci-fi movie and is based on a far off world called pandora. The main character Jake Sully and his wife have to venture out from their home to find a safe sanctuary where they can continue raising their children safely and run from the clutches of the "Star People" aka humans. As a former human now Avatar, Jake Sully uses all of his wit to protect his family. This movie's run time is 3 hours and 12 minutes. In my opinion this movie was much more thrilling and adventurous than the first movie. In addition to that the CGI editing was spot on and was very immerse. You can watch this movie in theaters and later in Disney+. Overall, the movie Avatar: The Way of the Water is a good fit to anybody who likes action, drama, fantasy and adventure.

- **Aarna Gireesh Krishna,**
6th grade



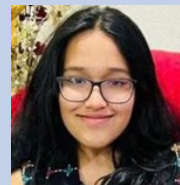
Roses Are Not Clovers - Poetry

Disdain corrupts
Clover and Rose.
Clover expresses it first.
"Rose,
you are royalty;
you stand superior to all;
you sit on the throne,
the crystal vase;
caressed,
cherished,
with unconditional love,
regard,
and value.
I am forgotten
unless I am
in a yard.

hey mock,
poison,
and pluck me out,
for clovers are not roses."

Rose argues.
"Clover,
you are free,
the sun at your grasp,
the grass greeting you.
Children adore you,
scrambling to
uncover
the rarity;
the irregularity,
the round peg
in the square hole,
for blissful luck,

passion,
and satisfaction.
You are small
yet coveted.
Sometimes it is
better to be forgotten,
for I am caged,
replaced,
and thorned,
for roses are not clovers."



- **Tanya Rajesh,**
9th grade



Book Recommendations for a Middle Schooler- Recommendation

Like a lot of people, over the winter break, with the rains and cold outside and not much to do I had quite a bit of time on my hands. So I resorted towards books as a way to keep myself busy. Today I am going to share a few of the books that personally stood out to me and I think that everyone should have a chance to read.

To start off this list is *The Song Of Achilles*, by Madeline Miller, is a book for anyone who was or is a Percy Jackson fan, or anyone who just likes Greek Mythology in general. The story is from the perspective of a boy named Patroclus, and how after accidentally murdering someone he was exiled from his homeland and sent to the palace of the legendary King Pelus to be brought up as a soldier. There he meets the one and only Achilles. The story is about Achilles and Patroclus' friendship and how when Achilles was sent to war, how Patroclus followed his friend to make sure he was alright. Now I won't give away anymore information as that would spoil the book. One thing I liked about this book was that even though it stayed true to the original mythology, it wasn't boring. The author, Madeline Miller, was able to beautifully narrate the olden Greece era in such a way that made it lively and interesting. The recommended age group for this is 12-15 years and can be found at bookstores, Costco, and Target, as it is a very popular book with over 2 million copies sold.

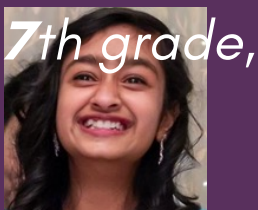
Another book I'd like to talk about is *They Both Die at the End*, by Adam Silvera. I know, I know, the title is a bit anticlimactic but I think that it just adds to the story. The story is about two boys, Mateo and Rufus, who are both given a call that they will die within the next 24 hours. So with the Last Friend App they both find each other and meet up to live a lifetime in a day. This was one of more wholesome books I read despite the name. I loved how different their personalities were. I can't tell much of the book without giving away the plot so I'll end that here. The age group for this book is teens and can be found at Barnes & Nobles, Targets and ofcourse on Amazon - Kindle.

To wind up the list, I recommend my most favorite book that I have read in my entire 12 years of being alive. It isn't a very popular one but it truly is amazing. Without further ado, *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. This is about a 35-year old women Nora Seed and how after she committed suicide she was taken to a library where each book she saw on the shelf was a different life she could have lived. This story was so much more intricate than what I had expected and really helps see things in a new light or perspective. A quote from this book that I think couldn't be more true is, " A person is like a city. You couldn't let a few desirable parts put you off the whole. There may be bits you don't like, a few dodgy side streets and suburbs, but the good stuff makes it worthwhile". Be honest, at least once in your life you would have wondered what your life would be, if you had done something different, even if looking back on it now it seemed small you would have wanted to change it back then. The age group for this book is also teen and can be found in Targets and bookstores.

There it is! My list of books that I think everyone should read. Of course I'm not saying these are the best books in the universe and I know that everyone has their own tastes. What about you? What are your favorite books? Let me know your list and I will be interested in going through your recommendations..

- **Eva**

Vipin



Keep reading!!!!





Food For All! - Current Event Article



Hi, My name is Abel and I would like to share my thoughts on how whole foods should be available and affordable for everyone. Our health and the environment are important factors to consider with this matter. You might be thinking, why does this matter?

Health and the environment are vital aspects of life, and it's our responsibility to maintain both. Our food is closely related to these factors. We have to be aware and work on this. It might seem like this does not affect you, but it affects everyone, because people's health has an impact on the economy, and the environment.

Food is a major aspect of our lives because it affects our health, so having quality whole foods at an affordable price is important. Low-income families often purchase cheaper options due to the fact it is much more affordable for them, however this comes with the price of their health. Food deserts are one of the main causes of this, and big food corporations are aware of this, so they put these stores in low-income areas. This contributes to individuals and families buying unhealthy food on a constant basis. Processed food increases their risk of various illnesses. This adds more medical bills to their expenses. Unhealthy food also affects their mental health. Children and youth also indirectly suffer, as they cannot focus on school and other activities which negatively affects their future.

Farming methods used for Organic food have a much better environmental effect compared to Processed and non-organic industrial methods. Organic food has to follow the U.S. Department of Agriculture's standards which prohibits any use of chemicals therefore not spoiling the soil and waterways. Animals must spend a certain amount of their life grazing leading to less negative environmental repercussions and it is more human too. This leads to a more sustainable way to feed our world. Global warming is such an imminent threat and agriculture is a big contributing factor. Consumers need to look to buy more sustainable solutions such as organic farming produce, however this is just a distant dream if the cost of organic food remains unreasonably high! When a consumer buys food, one of the main factors they look at is price, the environmental impact is one of the last things that comes to their mind. Some might argue that it isn't sustainable to feed everybody with whole foods. If we want everybody to have affordable access to Whole foods then governmental efforts are necessary. Processed foods and unhealthy food are cheaper because of government subsidies. If the government instead started subsidizing more whole food crops it would make it much more affordable for everyone. This is a major issue in society: the government is subsidizing only "commodity crops" when they should be subsidizing more organic farm produce, which will benefit more people, their health and the environment. Another benefit is that the organic industry will expand, creating more jobs with higher food standards than industrial farming. This benefits the society as well.

So what does, Food for all really mean? It means high-quality whole food should be accessible and affordable to everybody! I would like to end with a quote " You can buy honestly priced food or you can buy irresponsibly priced food". - *Mark Twain*, American author and journalist. Think about it, the choice is yours!



- Abel Antony,
9th grade





Caroling at Senior Living Centers and Nursing Homes December 2022

A staple of Christmas is going door-to-door with joy in your heart and Christmas Carols at the top of your mind. And for CAMYL, this was exactly the case. During this winter, the team wanted to spread joy throughout Senior Citizens in the Bay Area. We were fortunate enough to visit 3 Centers and Nursery Homes, singing Carols at all of the locations. We were even graced with Santa's presence. It truly was an amazing time, and we look forward to making it a tradition for many years to come.





**Leading the MANCA Nativity Show
and Youth Christmas Caroling
December 2022**



Cupcakes at Hospitals and Urgent Psychiatric Emergency Locations December 2022

The CAMYL team celebrated Christmas by giving cupcakes to the mentally challenged population at Valley Hospital and Urgent Psychiatric Emergency locations. The kids enjoyed the joy of giving and showing kindness to the mentally challenged population in Bay Area. The CAMYL team was able to prepare and deliver 150 cupcakes at different hospital locations.

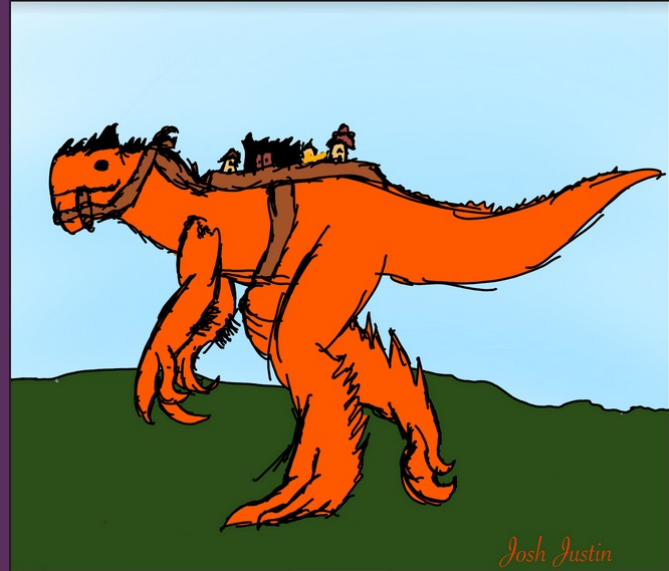




Art Gallery



Samuel Joseph, 7th grade



Josh Justin

Josh Justin
3rd grade



Josh Justin, 3rd grade



Upcoming Events

Event

MANCA
In Association With
DIFFERENT ART CENTRE
MOLDING MINDS MAGICALLY
An Evening with
Mr. Gopinath Muthukad
Saturday, Jan 28th -2023 (4:30 PM - 7:00 PM)
University of Silicon Andhra Auditorium
(1521, California Dr, Milpitas)
IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, YOU CAN DO IT
FUTURE IS SOMETHING WE CREATE

HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

- To donate: <https://www.facebook.com/donate/448988363925954/>
- Attend the Event on Saturday, Jan-28th (4:30 PM -7:00 PM)
There will be separate session for Kids between 6:30 - 7:00 PM
- Donate towards the Good Cause (Scan the QR Code below)

More Information Contact:

Rani Poonesh: 510-303-8868	Sunil Varghese: 510-495-4778
Sreejith Karthodiy: 650-619-8315	Pudunapriya Palattu: 408-518-2734
Jithesh Chandran: 408-823-5800	Greta George: 510-709-5977

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Mr. Gopinath Muthukad comes to the Bay Area to give us an inspirational talk about his experiences. Join us on Saturday, January 28th from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the University of Silicon Andhra Auditorium. We also have a separate session for kids from 6:30 to 7:00. We greatly appreciate any support so come and join us with Mr. Gopinath Muthukad.

Webinar

We are very excited to announce that we are planning a Stress Management and Resiliency Conference in February. Details will follow in the coming weeks.



Thank you for reading!

Want your work to be featured in the next edition?

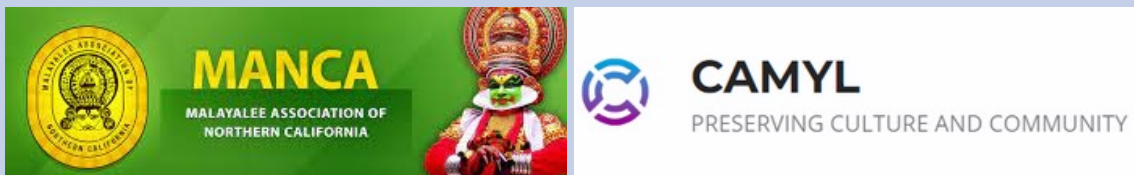
Submit art and/or writing to the form at camyl.org/camyl-connect/, or email us at camylonline@gmail.com



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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