



THE AYLUS TIMES

Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States

No. 6

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to the San Diego, Great Neck, Murrieta, West Essex, Basking Ridge, Columbus, Greater Buffalo, Pearland, Syosset, and Roslyn branches for winning Branch of the Month for January 2025.

Congratulations to the Gainesville branch for winning New Branch of the Month for January 2025.

February's monthly theme is "Food Insecurity." We invite branches to incorporate this theme into their events.



MONTHLY THEMED CHALLENGE: *Community Clean-Ups*

January often symbolizes renewal, making the start of the new year an ideal moment to care for shared spaces. Throughout the month, AYLUS branches across the country promoted cleaner, safer environments through hands-on community cleanup efforts.

In North Carolina, the Greater Triangle Branch improved safety for joggers and cyclists by removing litter and trimming hazardous branches on its adopted Greenway. The Memorial Branch restored Bendwood Park by collecting trash left across walking areas, creating a healthier space for visitors. In California, the San Clemente and Murrieta branches organized park and trail cleanups, sorting recyclables and clearing debris from public paths. Beyond outdoor spaces, the Houston Branch supported Ballard House by cleaning rooms and checking supplies to maintain a safe shelter environment.



These efforts demonstrate how small, consistent actions can refresh communities and set a positive tone for the year ahead. AYLUS will continue building cleaner communities, one shared space at a time.



Written by: Audrey Kuo
Revised by: Henry Tang

From Shelves to Service: Supporting Local Libraries



Libraries serve not only as an oasis of knowledge to nourish the brain, but also as vibrant community hubs where AYLUS members bring service, creativity, and connection to life. AYLUS branches nationwide kicked off the new year with innovative service projects and educational events in these libraries.

AYLUS Great Neck celebrated AAPI heritage by engaging kids in hands-on cultural activities such as crocheting, making paper stars, and crafting origami dragons. Raritan Valley and San Diego Branches organized book donation drives, expanding access to reading materials and promoting lifelong learning within their communities. Finally, AYLUS Pearland introduced a unique face-painting event for the community, transforming libraries into a lively environment full of creativity for the children.

Through these diverse initiatives, AYLUS branches exhibited the multitude of ways libraries can evolve: from traditional study spaces to centers for cultural exchange and imagination. Moving forward, AYLUS branches will continue utilizing their local libraries to enrich their communities through books and beyond.



Written by: Eason Wang
Revised by: Henry Tang

Stewardship Through the Winter Season

As winter begins to thaw and the ground slowly defrosts, AYLUS volunteers nationwide are hard at work renewing and protecting the environment around them.



The Austin and Memorial Branches led this effort, organizing local park and creek cleanups. Volunteers collected litter, removed harmful waste, and restored waterways, revitalizing the nature around them. Meanwhile, AYLUS Birmingham assisted with garden maintenance at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Similarly, volunteers from the Murrieta Branch helped cultivate the Little Garden of Hope: weeding, watering, and applying fertilizer to support the community green space.



AYLUS members also tackled waste reduction through recycling efforts. In San Diego, the branch hosted its 60th monthly bottles and cans recycling event, collecting recyclables and encouraging sustainability.

From tending gardens to organizing recycling drives, AYLUS volunteers are laying the groundwork for an uplifting and vibrant spring season. Beyond the immediate results, AYLUS hopes to plant the seed for long-term environmental responsibility and sustainability in the new year.

Written by: Angie Fang
Revised by: Henry Tang

Galloping into the Lunar New Year

With the Lunar New Year quickly approaching, AYLUS branches nationwide have spent their January donning a festive red as they prepared and organized vibrant celebrations for the holiday.



The AYLUS Great Neck Branch partnered with its local library to host a community-wide celebration. Volunteers arrived early to set up and decorate the venue with their handcrafted lanterns that highlighted and celebrated Asian culture. AYLUS Pearland Branch stayed busy promoting their Lunar New Year Festival by organizing a street outreach event and distributing flyers. Similar efforts were seen in the West Essex and Columbus Branches, which collaborated with their local Chinese schools to create memorable and engaging experiences for their communities.

Through active community involvement and a strong commitment to cultural appreciation, AYLUS members are fostering inclusivity and helping to ensure that these vibrant traditions continue to thrive for years to come.



Written by: Zoe Cheng
Revised by: Megan Wang

Branch Spotlight

GREATER BUFFALO IS ONLY BECOMING GREATER!

In May 2020, students in Greater Buffalo founded the 56th AYLUS branch to serve underprivileged community members. During the pandemic, they helped those most impacted by COVID-19: providing online tutoring for young students, sending donations to first responders, and visiting seniors for joy during stressful times.

Today, AYLUS Greater Buffalo continues their mission by supporting recent immigrants and refugees, as Buffalo ranks 8th for the largest refugee settlements in the U.S. In collaboration with Bridges from Borders and the Buffalo Chess Association, they launched the BFB#OneWorldChessClub, where immigrants can meet monthly to bond over chess. Members form orchestras and choirs for performances at Bridges from Borders. The branch also donates clothing, household supplies, and volunteer services to Journey's End Refugee Services.

Beyond community service, AYLUS Greater Buffalo emphasizes friendship and teamwork among its members. Grace Wang, President of External Affairs, explains, "Our annual movie night, where we collect donations while having fun, represents us as a whole. Watching younger members mature physically and mentally affirms AYLUS's impact not only for those we help, but also in shaping members' personal growth." Annual programs focus on professional development, including college and career seminars.



Since its inception, the branch has been featured in local newspapers; grown to over 100 members ages 10-18; and partnered with 25 nonprofits. In 2026, AYLUS Greater Buffalo plans to collaborate with nearby branches for impactful events. Wang looks forward to mentoring new officers as she passes the torch, ensuring the branch's legacy of service and community continues.

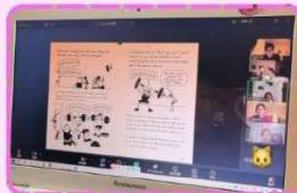
Written by: Sarah Xue
Revised by: Megan Wang

Advancing Literacy Nationwide

In light of the new year, AYLUS branches across the United States dedicated their time and efforts to improving literacy within their communities. Throughout January, branches hosted a variety of initiatives ranging from book clubs to tutoring sessions, all aimed at promoting learning and access to educational resources.

In the Morris and Bellaire branches, members partnered with their local libraries to organize book and media donations, providing community members with storybooks, novels, and puzzles to support literacy and enrichment. Meanwhile, the Great Neck and Newtown branches provided tutoring services that support children and seniors learning English, especially those who may face language or cultural barriers. The Greater Triangle and West Essex branches hosted book clubs to encourage engagement with literature and foster a love for reading.

Together, these efforts transformed education into a shared community mission, ensuring that learning is accessible and empowering for all. As the new year begins, AYLUS will continue to invest in literacy and strive to create educational opportunities within its communities.



Written by: Stella Zhao
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