



# Between Friends

Maitri Quarterly Newsletter

January, 2022

“The horizon leans forward, offering you space to place new steps of change.”

Maya Angelou

The start of a new year is always the time to make the promise of change to ensure a better future for all. And a better future is a world where no one faces any discrimination due to their gender, race, ethnicity, religion, class or any other reasons; where everyone feels supported, heard and seen. Creating a better future with violence-free homes and communities is absolutely possible if we all commit to that goal. Let us begin this new year with a pledge to reflect upon our own actions, thoughts and discourses, such that we identify whether or not these normalize any inequality and/or abuse in human relationships. Let us pledge to establish and advance real equity in our homes, relationships, and communities.

Maitri is committed to build a society where all relationships are built on dignity, equity, and compassion. Read more about our efforts in our annual report for FY21 [here](#).

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## Important Announcement

Dear Maitri Community,

Today, I am so pleased and honored to announce our new Board leadership: Geetha Krishnamurthy as the Board President and Narmrata Patnaik as the Board Vice President.

Maitri has always been blessed with stellar staff, volunteers, and board members who have stepped up to answer the needs of the organization so that we can continue our trajectory of empowering survivors of familial violence. Both Geetha and Namrata deeply embody this leadership, passion, and commitment to the cause, our work, and the clients.

Geetha is a long-time volunteer and board member for many years at Maitri. She built innovative programs, supported the Maitri staff, and brought her network to the cause.

Namrata has been on the board for a relatively short time but in that time, her passion, commitment, and efforts are clear to all of us.

I am excited to have Geetha lead the board and Namrata take on the leadership as the Vice President and I ask for your continuing support for our new Board Leadership and the organization. I am committed to supporting both our new board leaders in every way I can.

Upwards & Onwards,

Sonya Pelia  
Former Maitri Board President  
Current Maitri Board Member



Geetha Krishnamurthy  
Maitri Board President



Narmrata Patnaik  
Maitri Board Vice President

## Last Quarter's Updates



### Holiday Party

Typically, the Holidays are a time when the women and children residing in our Transitional House miss their families and feel lonely. Each year, Maitri staff put up Christmas trees with gifts in each unit to brighten up this time of the year for them. This year, we also did an activity with the children where they created their own Christmas tree ornaments.

*"Thank you so much for the Christmas gifts, that was so kind and helped make Christmas more pleasant for me and my daughter. I certainly didn't expect so much and I really appreciate it".*  
– A Maitri Client

## Mayor@Noon Show

Maitri was invited by Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor, City of Santa Clara at her show to talk about the uptick in domestic violence during the COVID pandemic. Zakia Afrin, Director, Survivor Advocacy represented Maitri. She talked about our client advocacy and prevention work. Thank you [Mayor Gillmor](#) for raising awareness with Maitri.



## Community Panel

We organized a community panel to discuss how patriarchy shows up in our daily lives and perpetuates familial violence, and what we can do about it. Our esteemed panelists were Ahsan Qazi, founder of One Voice-Pakistan and World Affairs in Sociological Perspective, Bob Dhillon, Board President of the San Jose Sikh Gurdwara, Dr. Mythri Jegathesan, Associate Professor, Anthropology, Santa Clara University and Naushaba Rashid, a Financial Advisor and founder of Bioskope Films. Maitri Board President, Sonya Pelia moderated this powerful discussion. A good number of community members attended the event and took part in a robust Q & A session. Watch the [video!](#)

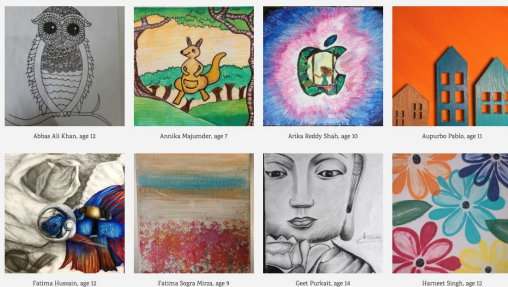
## Purple Thursday Campaign

Maitri staff and volunteers took part in Purple Thursday Campaign to commemorate domestic violence awareness month (DVAM). This [photo campaign](#) showed our support for those who have experienced domestic violence and let them know that they are not alone.

## Maitri, Between Friends

Maitri published 4 podcast episodes in the last quarter: [Safe dating relationship](#), [Marital Rape Law in California](#), [Gender stereotypes hurt boys too](#) and [Forced marriage, a hidden crime](#). Find all our episodes on [SoundCloud](#), and other podcast apps.

## Youth Engagement



## Maitri Art Fest

Maitri Art & Poetry Fest encouraged youth in envisioning the value of peace, love and compassion in human relationships. A big shout out to all participants and their families. Enjoy the colorful and heart touching [album](#).

## Youth Panel

Maitri and [Vivensity](#) co-organized a panel to empower students and families in





preventing bullying. Teen students, Malavika Eby, Jai Relan and Shradha Shendge joined the panel with [Gayathri Narayanan](#), a mindfulness practitioner and Genavae Pierre Dixon, Mental Health and Wellness Specialist. Panelists shared excellent tips and resources. Preeti Shrikhande, Founder & CEO, Vivensity moderated the discussion . [Video](#).

## Policy Advocacy

**Policy Advocacy**

**Proclamation**  
Proclaiming October 2021 as  
National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

WHEREAS, October is annually recognized as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and although progress has been made toward preventing and ending domestic violence and providing support to survivors and their families, important work remains to be done;

WHEREAS, domestic violence programs in California provide essential, lifesaving services for survivors, their children, and communities;

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide education, awareness and understanding of domestic violence and its causes, as well as the individualized needs of domestic violence survivors;

WHEREAS, approximately 40% of California women experience physical intimate partner violence in their lifetimes, and women 18-24 years of age are significantly more likely to be survivors of physical intimate partner violence than women in other age groups;

WHEREAS, domestic violence affects people of all genders, sexual orientations, ages, racial, ethnic, cultural, social, religious, and economic groups in the United States and here in California;

WHEREAS, the marginalization of certain groups in society, including undocumented individuals, 54% of transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals who have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime, and people living with disabilities who have a 40% greater risk of intimate partner violence than those without;

WHEREAS, approximately 4 out of every 10 non-Hispanic Black women, 4 out of every 10 American Indian or Alaska Native women, and 1 in 2 multiracial non-Hispanic women have been the victim of rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. These rates are 30%-50% higher than those experienced by Hispanic, White non-Hispanic women and Asian or Pacific non-Hispanic women;

WHEREAS, domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness among families in the United States, having a significant economic impact on women at an estimated 8 million days of paid work lost in the United States each year as the result of intimate partner violence;

WHEREAS, children exposed to domestic violence can experience long-term consequences including difficulty at school, substance abuse, behavioral problems in adolescence, and serious adult health problems;

WHEREAS, all survivors deserve access to culturally responsive programs and services to increase their safety and self-efficacy, and all communities deserve access to culturally responsive prevention programs and initiatives to improve overall community health and safety by challenging the societal norms that perpetuate violence;

WHEREAS, Menlo Park recognizes the vital role that all Californians can play in preventing and one day ending domestic violence; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Drew Combs, Mayor of the City of Menlo Park, on behalf of the City Council and the City, do hereby proclaim October 2021, as "National Domestic Violence Awareness Month."

*Drew Combs*  
Drew Combs, Mayor  
October 12, 2021

We strive to change complex structural and systemic barriers that disproportionately impact marginalized and underserved communities. And in that effort we advocate for better policies to support survivors. Sharing our policy advocacy efforts [here](#).

## Maitri Immigration Program – 10 years

***"Immigration reform cannot solely focus on self-petitioning options for victims and survivors, addressing***

## Maitri Immigration Program (since 2011)

Immigration Safety Planning

Representation For Eligible  
Survivors

Know Your Rights Sessions

Multilingual Resources

Referrals

1-888-8MAITRI

*domestic violence needs overhaul  
reform of the system."*

Maitri Immigration program shares  
reflection on its 10th anniversary. Read  
more [here](#)

## Wisdom Of Our Elders



"A lion is stronger than a man,  
but it does not enable him to  
dominate the human race. You  
have neglected the duty you owe  
to yourselves and you have lost  
your natural rights by shutting  
your eyes to your own interests."

SULTANA'S DREAM,  
BEGUM ROKEYA



### **Roquiah Sakhawat Hossain (1880-1932)**

A Bengali writer, thinker, educationist, social activist, advocate of women's rights, and widely regarded as the pioneer of women's education in the Indian subcontinent, currently Bangladesh.

## Heartfelt Gratitude

### **Thank You Allies & Funders**

We start 2022 with immense gratitude to our allies and institutional funders ([list here](#)) for their partnership and support. We are also deeply appreciative of the inspired efforts our volunteers and staff have put forth to help the cause.

### **Benefit Show**

We ended 2021 with a successful benefit event. A long time Maitri supporter and high end jewelry designer, [Sirjana Singh](#) presented a jewelry show with her unique collections and donated part of the proceeds to Maitri. Thank you for supporting our

## Announcements



### Maitri Gala Postponed

The in-person Maitri Gala that was scheduled for March 26, 2022 has been postponed for now due to the spike in COVID cases. Please stay tuned for further plans and updates.

## We're Hiring

**Donor Development Manager:** Join our team to develop and manage a strong community giving program, identify corporate partners and CSRs for sponsorship, and further the fundraising strategies to support the financial sustainability of the organization. [Apply here!](#)

**Outreach & Prevention Associate:** Join our team to support and expand Maitri's Outreach & Prevention Program, create online campaigns, manage the technological aspects of program activities, and assist in all community engagement and prevention activities. [Apply here!](#)

## Quarterly Program Statistics

### Helpline

Crisis Calls: 147  
Total Calls: 341

### Legal Advocacy

Total Clients: 85  
Legal Sessions: 250

### Transitional Housing

Total served: 11  
Total Bed nights: 954

### Economic Empowerment

Total Clients served: 9



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