



Kurdish Cultural Center of Illinois (KCCI) 2019 Activities and Events

We, the Kurdish Cultural Center of Illinois, are very grateful for having many supportive members and promoters helping our community grow. We would like to express our appreciation and give thanks for their efforts. Please see what we have been able to accomplish this past year.

January 12: Community members and children colored kites, a Kurdish Program, “More friends than Mountains”, to show solidarity for the refugee children in Kurdistan, at the Evanston Public Library.

March 9: International Women’s Day was celebrated with our female members and supporters. Participants shared empowering stories from their experiences. All participants were able to provide encouragement and strength as the Kurdish Women in our community. The childcare was provided by volunteer men.

March 16: KCC members and supporters gathered for the Halabja Commemoration.

March 17: KCC celebrated the main Kurdish holiday, Newroz, with its members and supporters at Juliana Restaurant. We welcomed the coming of the spring along with our singers’ performance (Bawercan, Ava, Arash, and Agid). It was a memorable night where we could see each other and feel the strength of our community.

April 1: KCC met with Congresswoman Lauren Underwood to advocate for US Congress support for Tev-Dem and SDF.

April 11-12: KCC invited Bassam Ishak (Co-Chair of Syrian Democratic Council Representation in the United States and President of Syriac National Council) to give a presentation, “Syria’s Long Path to Democracy”. He gave his presentation at three organizations: the University of Chicago, the College of DuPage, and Joliet College.

May 11: KCC held a Town Hall Meeting at the Eisenhower Library where we discussed the following issues: the Board shared the financial report of KCC with the members, potential physical locations, new projects and ideas from the board and the community members.

June 5: KCC board members honored to give a plaque to the Gundis Kurdish Kitchen for their contribution to the Kurdish center and community.

June 9: KCC held a community potluck in Ericson Woods. Our community members generously brought food, played games with children, and gave gifts to some community members for their recent accomplishments and contribution to our community.

August 11: KCC held a community potluck in Big Bend Lake Picnic Area.

October 12: KCC held an emergency rally to stop the Turkish invasion in Western Kurdistan.

October 13: Ibrahim Parlak (Owner of Gulistan Cafe and a Kurdish Activist) gave a talk on the roots of the conflicts in Syria, the implications of the withdrawal of US troops, and the future of Kurdish freedom movement at Senior Community Center in Evanston. Our board members joined the Q&A session.

November 2-3: The President of KCC, Osman Cen gave a presentation at the Kurdish National Congress of North America Conference 2019. He shared the goals of KCC and emphasized the importance of Kurdish diaspora in the USA. Here is a section from his talk: “We, as KCC, wish that all North America Kurdish diaspora get interconnected and act with common agenda towards promoting the Kurdish culture, language, and rights abroad and at home. The world is ready to assist the Kurds and Kurds should act united, despite rich inner diversity and let the world help them.”

November 12: KCC members were invited by Faraz Chaudry from Holmes Middle School in Wheeling to speak with his Global Awareness class. We had a chance to tell the story and struggle of Kurds in the Middle East. We, the members of the Kurdish Cultural Center of Illinois, had a great time with his students and other school staff.

December 7: KCC held annual board meeting and selected its new board members.

Board Members of 2018-2019

President: Osman Cen	Vice President: Esma Armagan	Vice President: Mehnush	Secretary: Bawer Broosk
Treasurer: Ramazan Balikci	Member: Araz Brifcani	Member: Bahadin Kerborani	Member: Gonul Guzer

If you have any questions and suggestions please let us know. We will be happy to hear your feedback to strengthen our community together.