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December 2014 Newsletter



Please Join Us.....

International Center Continues GLOBAL CUISINE with Two December Cooking Classes Scheduled

Happy Holidays,
Merry Christmas,
Happy Hanukkah,
Happy Kwanza,
Buon Natale, Feliz Natal,
Sung Tan Chuk Ha,
Gajan Kristnaskon...
**Let there be
PEACE on Earth**



ICCR's
November
Visitor
RECAP

The first, Polish Holiday Traditions, will take place on **Saturday, December 6th** from **10:00 am to 12:00 Noon** and will be lead by local Polish educator Kazia Lopatniuk. Polish cuisine, which is considered hearty, has evolved over the centuries to become very eclectic due to Poland's rich history. Participants will help prepare several items that will be ate communally at the conclusion of the class and attendees will be provided recipes so

[Recent OPEN WORLD Program in the](#)

Capital Region a Wonderful Success

From Nov. 7 thru Nov. 15th, ICCR provided professional programming for five delegates, one facilitator and one interpreter from the Ukraine. Their project's subject matter was community development and public/private partnerships. The Open World program is one of the most effective U.S. exchange programs for countries of the post-Soviet era. Through Open World, mayors, legislators, judges, civil servants, educators and entrepreneurs from across the former Soviet Union have come to know the real America. Congressional support for Open World has enabled leaders from countries without a history of representative democracy and independent legislatures to observe these aspects of American government firsthand. Thank you to one and all for your assistance with this project!



Delegation touring the Carrot Barn in Schoharie with owner Shelly Ball (center, blue jacket)



Delegation had the opportunity to meet with Schenectady Mayor Gary McCarthy

that dishes can be replicated at home.

The second class, Buon Natale! Christmas in Italy, will take place on **Saturday, December 13 from 10:00 – 12:00 Noon** and will provide hands-on instruction by Jane LaCivita-Clemente for making a number of Italian Holiday Desserts. Participants will leave a sampling of every dessert/pastry prepared as well as recipes so that everything can be replicated again at home for the holidays.

Both classes are taking place at the Celtic Hall, 430 New Karner Road in Colonie. The cost of attending either class is \$25.

To register please call the International Center at (518) 708-7608 or info@iccralbany.org

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The International Center is looking for an academic high school team to send to Washington DC in the Spring of 2015



ICCR wants to give area high schools plenty of notice so that they can start preparing... On Saturday, March 21, 2015 from 9:00 – 12:00 Noon, the International Center of the Capital Region will once again be sponsoring a local Academic WorldQuest competition at the Celtic Hall in Colonie with the anticipation of sending the winning four-member team and faculty coach down to Washington DC to represent our region in the national Academic WorldQuest competition taking place on Saturday, April 25th, 2015. There is no cost to participate. Additionally, ICCR will cover the costs of overnight accommodations and flights for the winning team plus faculty coach to attend the national competition. Academic WorldQuest is the World Affairs Councils of America's flagship student education program. The main objective of the program is to inform and engage high school students and their teachers across the country in global affairs. Each year, over 4000 students, test their knowledge of international affairs, in regional



Visiting Cohoes construction site with Managing Director Bill Hoblock (center, blue vest)



At Veteran's Day Parade in Albany with Congressman Paul Tonko

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Diplomacy Begins Here Regional Summit

In mid November, Global Ties US offered a regional summit in Huntsville, Alabama entitled **Diplomacy Begins Here**.

The Huntsville summit focused on the potential of the Millennial Generation to advance people-to-people diplomacy, and provided representatives of ICCR an opportunity to network with individuals from across the nation including the southern United States. Thank you Global Ties US!



John Hamilton, Board President of Global Ties Alabama with ICCR Board Member Mary Barry

Academic WorldQuest competitions. Study guides are available. www.worldaffairscouncils.org/2011/images/insert/AWQ2015StudyGuide.pdf

The 2014-2015 Topics assigned are as follows:

- Russia / Eurasia
- Youth, Jobs, and Social Unrest
- Food and Water
- Future of Energy
- Africa Rising
- Human Trafficking
- Asia and the New Global Economy
- Millennium Development Goals: 2015 & Beyond
- Great Decisions
- Current Events

Nine of the ten question rounds will feature a multiple-choice format. This year, the Current Events round in both the Local and National Competitions will include fill-in-the-blank, true/false, and open-ended questions.

Schools can enter up to three (3) four-member student teams plus alternates in the Local Competition.

For further information or to register your school, please e-mail Fran@iccralbany.org or (518) 708-7608

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January 15, 2015 - Nominations Due for The Experiment in International Living's Leadership Institute programs

We encourage you to nominate a qualified student for a full scholarship to The Experiment's Leadership Institute programs in India with a focus on Global Health,

or South Africa with a focus on Peace, Politics, and Human Rights

for students deeply interested in intercultural leadership, global issues, and civic engagement.

Applicants must apply online and submit a complete application, essays, nomination form, and a letter of recommendation **by January 15 at 5:00 PM.** (When the student applies online, he or she will enter your name and email address to receive the nomination form.)

This summer 2015, The Experiment will offer these **fully-funded**, six-week programs, including:



ICCR Board Member Mary Barry, Executive Director of Global Ties Alabama Jacquelyn Shipe, President of Global Ties US Jennifer Clinton and Diane at Regional Summit



Diane and Mary at Harrison Brothers, Alabama's Oldest Hardware Store

ICCR's two FLEX students traveled to Hyde Park for a field trip with Frannie. The girls visited Springwood along with the FDR Museum and Library. Fun was had by all!

- Four-day pre-program Leadership Seminar in **Washington, DC**;
- Re-entry sessions in **Brattleboro, Vermont** at the SIT campus;
- Post-program project implemented in the **home** community.
- The Leadership Institute is for rising seniors who are at least 16 years old and not more than 18 years old at the time of the exchange;
- These programs are **fully funded** for accepted participants. (There is no program fee, and international and domestic travel costs, including flights, are covered for students living in the U.S.)

As a reminder, we still offer need-based financial aid for our [other programs](#) and strive to find diverse, dynamic participants!

Questions? Please contact us at [1 800 345-2929](tel:18003452929) or at

experiment@worldlearning.org.

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Sunday, March 8th - International Women's Day

International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

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2nd Annual TASTES of the World

On **Thursday, March 26th, 2015** from 5:30 - 8:00 PM, the International Center of the Capital Region in collaboration with WAMC will hold our Second Annual International Food Tasting Event entitled TASTES of the World at the Linda, WAMC's Performing Arts Center, 339 Central Avenue. Area restaurants will provide sample-sized world cuisine, with food ranging from French and Indonesian, to Middle Eastern and Meditarrian. Many fine restaurants, area chefs and cultural/affinity groups will be participating. Additionally several well known NYS Vintners and breweries will be present sharing samples. Tickets are available for \$50 by calling [\(518\) 708-7608](tel:5187087608) or info@iccralbany.org. Proceeds from the event are to benefit the educational initiatives of the International Center.

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An Academic Program to encourage



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**International Center Announces 2014
Volunteer Award Recipients**

At a recognition event last month held at Siena College, the International Center of the Capital Region named its 2014 volunteer award recipients in two separate categories. The first, entitled ***the Golden Globies***, were given to those individuals from the community who continuously gave unselfishly of themselves to enable the ICCR the ability to provide world-class professional programming to individuals from all over the world. Those recognized were as follows: Manoj Ajmera, Mary Berry, Esq., Michael Gulotty, Hon. John McDonald, Barbara Opitz, Leslie Thiele, Esq., Carol Whittaker, and Bob Wolfgang. The second category, entitled ***the Golden Spoon***, was given to individuals who continually opened their home to international visitors for either a home-cooked meal or overnight accommodations. These individuals were as follows: Dan and Mary Berry, Jane LaCivita Clemente, Barbara LaMarshe, Linda Larmon, Sheila Mosher, Michael and Brenda Mugits, Mary and Steve Mueller, Deb Oriola and Chuck Batzinger, Lynne Oudekerk and Dan Harrison, Robert Pastel and Nettye Lamkay, Richard and Danielle Powell, and Happy and Harvey Scherer. For further information on volunteer opportunities with ICCR please call (518) 708-7608.

Global Cultural Exchanges
Face to Faith: a project of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation
Designed for 12-17 year olds, Face to Faith connect students worldwide via a secure website where they interact in a safe and modified space via facilitated videoconferences. To find out more email: helpdesk_USA@facetofaithonline.org



Our continual appreciation to **Manoj Ajmera** for his assistance and leadership with our membership committee and the recruitment of new and renewing members!
Household
Rajendra and Manjuli Agrawal of Rensselaer
Dr. Essien Bassegy of Colonie
Thomas Buckley of East Greenbush
Sangitada and Sangita Dave of Clifton Park
Satwinder D. Garcha of Clifton Park
Melanie Pores of Albany
Suri and Jhansi Putta of Latham
Kevin Tully of Saratoga Springs
Well Wishers
Susan Morse of Delmar
Robert Pastel of Albany
Terry Tyson of Latham
Organization
Albany College of Pharmacy
Holiday Inn Albany

**Thank you,
Thank you, Thank you...
to all those who gave of themselves in
November,**



ICCR Volunteer Barbara La Marche receiving her Golden Spoon Hospitality Award at November 13th Reception.



ICCR Board Member Manoj Ajmera receiving his Golden Golbie Award

ICCR could not do what we do without your involvement.

These wonderful individuals include:

Manoj Ajmera, Rosemary Armao, Sarah Ashton, Shelly Ball, Katherine Bamberger, Thomas Bass, Brother Brian Belanger, Dan & Mary Berry, Ray Bromley, David Buicko, Angel Cao, Donna Crisafulli, Andrea P DeRocco, Deanna Derway, Kathy Dorn, Dr. G, Mike Gulotty, William Hoblock, Christine Hoffer, Greg Jabaut, Jennifer Jennings, Phyllis Kapelewski, Hon. Judd Krasher, Monica Kurzejeski, Frannie LaCivita, Joseph LaCivita, Linda Larmon, Anna Liss, Marcin Luka, Gavin Malvey, Assemblyman John McDonald, Hon. Gary McCarthy, Graeme McKenna, Philip Morris, Michael and Brenda Mugits, Justin Mugits, Lynne Oudekerk and Dan Harrison, Robert Pastel and Nettye Lambkin, Lisa Robert Lewis, Nancy Roberts, Hon. Lou Rosamilia, Elaine Salisbury, Danielle Sanzone, Happy and Harvey Scherer, Congressman Paul Tonko, Rafi Topalian, Haile Tuccillo, Bob Wolfgang and the Lansingburgh Rotary Club...

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Community Events

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Friday, December 5 & Saturday, December 6, 10:00-6:00 and Sunday, December 7, 10:00-4:00 PM

Italian Christmas Market at the American Italian Heritage Museum

FREE admission

1227 Central Avenue, Albany

<http://www.americanitalianmuseum.org> or

(518) 435-1979

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Monday, December 8, 6:00 – 9:00 PM
Ebola Emergency Relief Fundraiser



ICCR Volunteers Kathy Dorn and the singing jeweler, Rafi Topalian share the mike to sing "God Bless America"

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2014 World Affairs Councils of America National Conference in Washington DC

In the beginning of November, Diane has fortunate to be able to attend the 2014 National WACA Conference entitled America and the World 2015



Bill Clifford, President of WACA, Douglas Savage from the University of Wisconsin, Alexandra Haas from the Embassy of Mexico and Diane attending reception at the Mexican Embassy

sponsored by the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Northeastern New York at Umana Restaurant and Wine Bar, 236 Washington Avenue, Albany \$30 in advance/\$35 at the door ebola.albany@yahoo.com or (518) 253-3766

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Russian Red Ball - December 13 2014

You must wear something red to participate and enjoy the evening during the Russian Red Ball on Saturday, December 13 2014 at the Ballroom of the Mohawk Golf Club, Niskayuna NY. Includes: live performances, food, music, contests and dance. Admission tickets: \$25 per person. Tickets are available for purchase at www.newrussiacenter.org.

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YOLKA"- the Russian Children's New Year's Event - December 27 2014

The New Russia Cultural Center presents its 3rd annual "YOLKA" (the Russian Children's New Year's Event). Children of all ages and their families will be delighted with Russian fairytale performance of "Tsar Saltan" by Alexander Pushkin and the arrival of Ded Moroz bringing them gifts and living contact with the Russian culture. The program will be bi-lingual.

The event will take place Saturday, December 27, 2014, 12pm-2pm, Mohawk Golf Club, Niskayuna, NY. Tickets (\$10 per person) for sale at Dnipro Deli, 898 Loudon Rd, Latham, NY.

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Check out our website!
www.iccralbany.org



Diane with Faruk Taban, Ph.D.,
President of the Turkic American Alliance
based in Washington DC

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UPCOMING OPEN WORLD AND IVLP Programming for ICCR

Brazil, December 6 – 10, 2014,
Promoting Citizens' Security by
Confronting Trafficking in Persons

Tajikistan, April 10 -18, 2015, Rule of
Law – Legal Defense and the Law

**Stay Tuned...A New Collaborative with
WAMC Announced for 2015!**

***A World Affair: International Passport
Celebrations***

Starting in April 2015, ICCR will be teaming up with the Linda, WAMC's Preforming Arts Studio, in Albany to hold ethnic evenings each quarter celebrating the world around us. The first is scheduled for **Thursday, April 23rd** and will focus on Japan in honor of Washington DC's annual cherry blossom festival. Four events will be held in 2015 each with a distinctive theme and will highlight the history, art, food and music of a particular country/culture. Event



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info@iccralbany.org

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**Please spread the word - feel free to
share this newsletter with your friends
and colleagues!**

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**WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR
VOLUNTEERS!!!!**
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www.facebook.com/pages/International-Center/163428540492727

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GLOBALTIES > U.S.

AT THE CENTER OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE
Global Ties U.S. is a network of over 100
nonprofit organizations across 44
states and 13 countries that connect
leaders in U.S. communities with leaders
from all around the world.

www.globaltiesus.org

Passports will be distributed to those in attendance. The small booklet will contain a page for each participating entity (artists, restaurants and ethnic organizations), with a photo and a question having to do with the evening's theme. Attendees will be able to go to the different booths where they will find or be told the answer to the question and have their "passport" stamped providing them with a unique social learning experience. Those who answer all the questions can have their names entered into a drawing for prizes donated by the ethnic organizations and Passport sponsors.



World Affairs

Councils of America

www.worldaffairscouncils.org



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