

December 2015 Newsletter



National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
 Happy Hanukkah
 Human Rights Day
 Winter Solstice
 Merry Christmas
 Happy Kwanzaa
 Happy Holidays

Please Join Us.....
 Mark Your Calendars...
 Upcoming ICCR
 Activities

**Thursday December 3rd
 5:30 - 7:30 PM,
 ICCR End-of-the-Year
 Volunteer/Community Resource Appreciation
 Reception**

venue: Staybridge Suites, Capital Room, 39 Wolf Road (behind Trader Joe's in Macy's parking lot), Albany

Heartfelt Thanks from the International Center of the Capital Region

The key to our success rests in people like you, who embody the spirit of citizen diplomacy through your willingness to share your time and talents. Your support and involvement in our professional programming creates opportunities for our entire region on a global scale. Over the past year, we have welcomed international visitors from over 90+ countries into upstate New York.

We could not have done this without you!
Please join us so that we can properly thank you...

RSVP: (518) 708-7608

University at Albany Student, Claudia D Molde, and Siena College Student, Marie Tetard, Attended The Student Conference on US Affairs at West Point



Keynote Address Of Madeleine Albright



Official Photo of Europe Roundtable

The Student Conference on US Affairs conference was hosted at The United States Military Academy at West Point. The purpose of the conference was to facilitate interaction and constructive discussion between civilian student delegates and West Point cadets in order to better understand the challenges that the United States faces in an increasingly interconnected global society. SCUSA delegates attended panel discussions, heard from high-profile keynotes speakers, and developed policy recommendations over the course of four

**Saturday, December 5th,
 10:00 – 12:00 Noon
 Holiday Pastries
 with Chef Joan Dembinski**



Chef Joan Dembinski

Celebrated local Chef Joan Dembinski will lead a hands-on cooking class entitled Holiday Pastries. Participants will learn how to make delicious treats just in time for the holidays. The class will take place in the kitchen at the Celtic Hall, 430 New Karner Road in Colonie. The cost is \$20 for ICCR members and \$25 for not-yet members. To make a reservation, please call ICCR at (518) 708-7608.

**Three Part-Series: Russian Cooking and Culture Class
 February, March and April, 2016**

roundtable sessions. Roundtable sessions covered regional and topical demographic issues placed delegates on the forefront of national issues, exposed them to complex problems facing leaders today. Delegates concluded the conference by submitting a policy recommendation to their peers, the best of which will be published in the Undergraduate Journal of Social Sciences. Thank you again to past ICCR Board Member Barbara Opitz for her generous underwriting for these scholarships.

University at Albany Student, Nayram Gasu, Attended National Conference in Washington with ICCR Staff



Diane and Nayram were included in a reception at the home of the His Excellency Petr Gandalovic, Ambassador of the Czech Republic



Diane was fortunate to have had the opportunity to have lunch with the Ambassador of Ukraine to the USA Valeriy Chaly

Joining ICCR Director Diane Conroy-LaCivita, Ms. Gasu attended the World Affairs Councils of America National Conference, **Leading America: Foreign Policy Challenges and the 2016 Election**, from November 11-13 in Washington, DC. The conference afforded a tremendous opportunity for the college senior to be provided original and essential insights, Keynote speakers and relevant panel discussions on the Middle East, great power rivals Russia and China, the global economy, energy, and transnational challenges from cyber to migration. Thank you to WACA for providing this scholarship!

ICCR's 3rd Annual Adult WorldQuest was a Resounding Success



Offered one evening each month over a three-month period (Feb. 2, March 1 and April 12), participants will enjoy the flavor of Russian cuisine with traditional hands-on participatory cooking lessons. Russia has a history of a diet based on crops that can thrive in cold climates, such as grains (rye, barley, buckwheat, and wheat), root vegetables (beets, turnips, potatoes, onions), and cabbage. Understand how history, culture and cuisine influence each other. This cooking series is being offered in conjunction with New Russian Cultural Center. The cost is \$60 for ICCR members and \$75 for not-yet members. Spaces are limited. To reserve your spot please call the International Center at (518) 708-7608.

**Saturday, February 6th, 2016,
9:00 – 4:00 PM**

Second Annual Sacred Spaces Tour: Places of Worship, Love & Understanding

The Capital Region's diversity is reflected in its places of worship. Enjoy a unique guided bus tour visiting seven (7) separate locations. View the symbols and architecture and hear the history of the area's religious institutions. Cost: \$30 for ICCR members, \$35 for not-yet- members and \$15 for students. The cost includes transportation and a variety of treats throughout the tour. Call to reserve your spot (518) 708-7608 or email info@iccralbany.org

**Tuesday, March 8th, 2016,
5:30 -8:00 PM**

International Women's Day

International Women's Day represents an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for greater equality. For the second year in a row, ICCR will be teaming with many, many others in the community to create a celebration in the Capital Region. The event will take place at the Opalka Gallery, 140 New Scotland Avenue, on the Sage College of Albany campus. There will be plenty of parking available. The event is FREE and open to the public.



Italian Christmas Market

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th & SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 5th: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm**

and

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6th: 12 noon to 4:00 pm

Share in this truly old Italian Tradition at the American-Italian Heritage Museum located at 1227 Central Ave. in Colonie. Their Exhibit rooms will be transformed into market places filled with many items for you to enjoy, with something for almost everyone on your Christmas shopping list -- including yourself! Be sure to look for unique Italian merchandise that will be available for purchase featuring things that are hard to find, Ceppos, Befana items, Hand-Packed Olive Oils, personalized & themed ornaments, Sicilian carts and delicious Italian Baked Goods. Come, see the always beautiful room-size Annual Italian Nativity Special Exhibit and celebrate Italian culture at this



With twelve teams participating, fun was had by all. Top honors were awarded to ICCR Board Kim Andersen and her team from the Capital Region Language Center. Congratulations! Our sincere appreciation goes out to: our corporate event sponsors KeyBank, Premiere Transportation, and Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna; our Emcee Joe LaCivita; our category presenters Assemblyman Phil Steck, CBA English Teacher Jennifer Kish and Times Union Associate Editor Mike Spain; our event judge Mary Berry; our event coordinator Frannie LaCivita; our *singing jeweler* Rafi Topalian; our intern Angela Napoli who served as timekeeper; our wonderful volunteer Phyllis Kapelewski and our event host the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520. Thank you to all involved in bringing this great night to fruition.



The Heritage Awards Dinner hosted by the New Russia Cultural Center on Saturday, November 28 2015 at the Wolferts Roost Country Club was a success!

The event began with a cocktail reception. Guests tasted Russian types of appetizers with their drinks and wines. Live music played by Sofia Maryanova (piano) and Leonid Polishchuk (violin) created an elegant ambiance. The evening proceeded to the Awards Ceremony honoring individuals for their contributions to the Russian-speaking community. The nominees in five categories for the Heritage Awards were announced; the winners named and awarded trophies. Between categories there were a full course dinner and concert performances, presented by Nina Vepritskaya, Irina Tikhonenko, and Robert Willard. After dinner local Russian producer, writer and director Alex Guilderland presented the trailer of the Sci-Fi short "This is Andromeda". The evening was culminated with music and dancing.



The Russian Heritage Awards 2015 Winners!

- CULTURE AND ARTS – Yuri Naumkin (Artistic director, Russian Drama Club)
- BUSINESS – Marina Glavin (Law firm "Glavin & Glavin")
- EDUCATION – Nina Vepritskaya (Piano and vocal teacher)
- HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES – Nataliia Skrinik (Personal Assistant)
- COMMUNITY SERVICE YOUTH HERO - Robert Willard (17 years old High School student)

most beautiful time of the year. Buon Natale! And, be sure to visit their Market Café for refreshments & fellowship.

BLANKET & COAT DRIVE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES IN TURKEY

DROP OFF TIMES:

Between November 30th to December 12th. Monday through Saturday from 4 pm to 7 pm [Embrace Relief Foundation](#) and Turkish Cultural Center organize a blanket drive to help Syrian refugee families in need during the harsh winter months that will soon be upon them.

We are accepting blanket, coat and monetary donations.

For monetary donations, you can also write a check payable to Embrace Relief, and send it to 545 Interstate Pl, Carlstadt New Jersey 07072
DROP OFF LOCATION: Turkish Cultural Center Albany, 291 Broadway, Menands, NY 12204



WHEN:

**Tuesday, December 8
7:30 - 9 a.m.**

WHERE:

**Capital Region Chamber Albany Office
5 Computer Drive South
Colonie, NY**

When you're looking to take your products and services global, there are helpful resources in your own backyard! Local companies doing business globally offer the reach and expertise to help you launch and support your international growth.

This session will share ideas, tips and experience to reach your key audience around the world. Leave feeling empowered and connected to an international network of prestigious companies that can help you via shared intelligence, agile strategies and entrepreneurial connectivity.

Panelists

- Kathryn Bamberger, Empire State Development Corporation
- Erica Choi, U.S. Small Business Administration
- Cathy Gibbons, US Department of Commerce

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A Quote Worth Noting...

Welcome

**Welcome New and Renewing
ICCR Members!**
We so appreciate your support!

Albany College of Pharmacy,
Jessica DiLorenzo,
Organization Level
Asset Corp., Daniel Harrison,
Household Level
Roberta and Terranca Christenson,
Household Level
Ann-Marie and Kevin Costello,
Well Wisher Level
Bassey E. Essien, Ed.D,
Household Level
Homespun Occasions, Paul Rosenberg,
Household Level
Linda Larmon,
Household Level
Patricia Mackey,
Household Level
Mike & Brenda Mugits,
Household Level
Phil & Bonnie Nasca,
Household Level
Maryellen Rudolf,
Household Level
T.M. Byxbee Company, CPAs, NY, P.C.,
Organization Level
Turkish Cultural Center Albany, Veysel Ucan,
Organization Level
Richard Vitkay,
Household Level

*Thank you to ICCR Membership Committee
Chairman, Manoj Ajmera, for your continued
hard work!*

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**World Affairs
Councils of America**

www.worldaffairscouncils.org



CALLING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**World Affairs Councils of America
Academic World Quest 2016**

One of the greatest challenges facing our nation and our schools across the country is preparing our youth for the globally interconnected world of the 21st century. America's ability to face the economic and security challenges of the 21st century and seize new opportunities is dependent on an educated and informed citizenry and workforce. Academic WorldQuest is a unique opportunity to expose our youth to



***"Great minds discuss ideas; average minds
discuss events; small minds discuss people."***

Eleanor Roosevelt

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"Join our Mailing List"
info@iccralbany.org

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

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING

FOR VOLUNTEERS!!!!



World Affairs

Councils of America

www.worldaffairscouncils.org

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

the world outside our borders and prepare them for the challenges and the opportunities of the 21st Century. Academic WorldQuest, a flagship program of the World Affairs Councils of America that engages more than 4,000 high school students annually across the U.S. to test their knowledge of global issues and foreign policy.

Local Competition: March 12, 2016 in Albany, NY

Winner of the Local Competition will be sent to Washington DC to compete in the National Competition!!

National Competition: April 23, 2016 in Washington D.C.

Topics:

- Current Events
- Great Decisions
- NATO
- Asia Matters for America
- International Trade and Finance
- Sultanate of Oman
- Privacy in the Digital Age
- The Arctic
- Food Security
- Organization of American States

For more information or to sign your school up, please contact Frannie at fran@iccralbany.org (518) 708-7608.



Check out our website!

www.iccralbany.org

countries that connect leaders in U.S. communities with leaders from all around the world.

www.globaltiesus.org



The International Center of the Capital Region Needs You

Are you interested in being a part of a movement for global citizen diplomacy, cultural and diversity education? Become a volunteer with International Center of the Capital Region and help us make a difference in our community. We work to promote international and cultural understanding and to increase global awareness of the region's assets. We are looking for committee members, interns & volunteers. If you have any of the skills listed and are interested in welcoming the World to the Capital Region, please contact us at info@iccralbany.org.



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