

January 2016 Newsletter



Martin Luther King Day
ICCR
An Irish Blessing for the New Year
May your troubles be less,
And your blessings be more.
And nothing but happiness
come through your door.
**THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER
OF THE CAPITAL REGION, INC.**

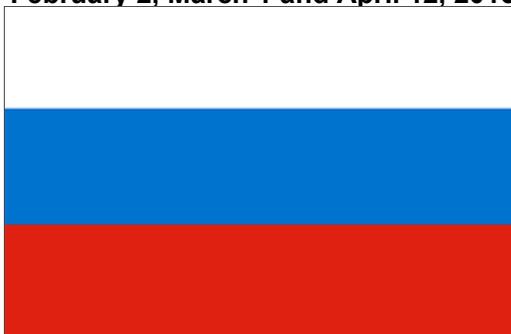
**WELCOME NEW
ICCR BOARD MEMBERS**



Jessica Close is a branch manager for Berkshire Bank in Slingerlands, NY as well as the President and co-founder of the first U.S. franchise of Migrate America. Migrate is a global company, (founded in Amman, Jordan), whose focus is to support business expansion into new markets (locally and internationally). Previously, Jessica served as the Chief Operating Officer of LingaLinx Language Solutions, Inc. A resident of Clifton Park, Jessica is married and the mother of three.

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

Three Part-Series: Russian Cooking and Culture Classes February 2, March 1 and April 12, 2016



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 with its president, Tanya Deptola, instructing. The cost for the series 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.

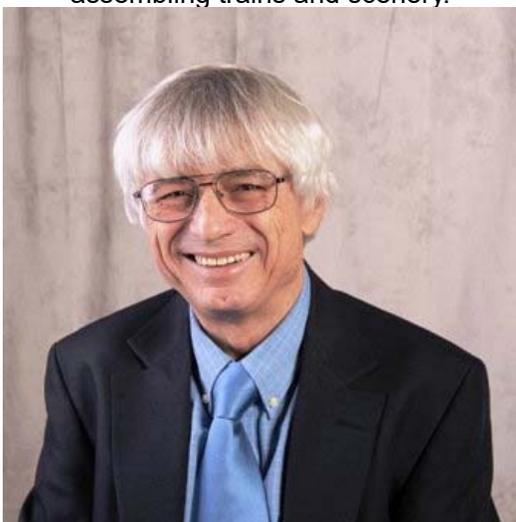
the Second Annual Sacred Spaces Tour: Places of Worship, Love & Understanding Saturday, February 6, 2016

The Capital Region's diversity is reflected in its places of worship. Enjoy a unique guided bus tour visiting seven (7) locations; several churches (Roman Catholic, Non-denominational, Orthodox, and Presbyterian), an Islamic Center, and a Hindu Temple (note: one site waiting on final confirmation). 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, \$15 for students and will include transportation, tip for the driver and snacks on the bus. (the bus will leave at 8:30 am for first stop)
To reserve your spot call (518) 708-7608 or email info@iccralbany.org



Robert (Bob) Huber is the General Manager of the Staybridge Suites on Wolf Road in Colonie. He has worked in the hospitality industry for approximately 37 years. Staybridge Suites caters to a world market believing in one-on-one guest interaction continuously each day, whether in the lobby welcoming guests, asking guests about their hotel experience and how their stay can be made more comfortable or riding the elevator and simply saying “hello”, each interaction is a start to building a relationship. When not working, Bob enjoys spending time with his wife of twenty-seven years, Debbie, and assembling trains and scenery.



Michael O'Brien is an elected representative on the City of Albany Common Council, serving the 12th Ward. A graduate of Albany Law School, he has over forty years experience as an attorney and had worked for the Albany County Social Services Department, Mental Hygiene Legal Service, and the NY State Health Department. He is very active in the community serving on the boards of the Underground Railroad History Project and the Central Ave Business Improvement District, as well as a volunteer pro-bono attorney with the Legal Aid Society of North Eastern NY at Stratton VA Medical Center and the Albany Housing Coalition Homeless Veterans Program. He has been married for thirty-three years with three daughters and one grandchild.

End-of-the Year Member/Volunteer /Community Resource Appreciation Reception

It was our chance to say “*Thank you, thank you, thank you...*” On December 3rd, the International Center held its End-of-the Year Member/Volunteer /Community Resource Appreciation Reception at the beautiful Staybridge Suites on Wolf Road. With approximately 70 in attendance, the evening offered a lively opportunity to network with



Join the International Center of the Capital Region for
the Second Annual

Sacred Spaces Tour:

Places of Worship, Love & Understanding



OR

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

The Capital Region's diversity is reflected in its places of worship. Enjoy a unique guided bus tour visiting seven (7) locations; several churches (Roman Catholic, Non-denominational, Orthodox, and Presbyterian), an Islamic Center, and a Hindu Temple (note: one site waiting on final confirmation). View the symbols and architecture and hear the history of the area's religious institutions.

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or
email info@iccralbany.org

[\(VIEW and PRINT INFORMATION\)](#)



"Hockey for Dummies"

Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 6-7 PM
Times Union Center, Albany

This free ICCR event will take place at the Times Union Center and will provide an unique opportunity to meet some of the Albany Devils while learning the game of hockey.

In addition, tickets to the January 22nd game will be made available at a reduced rate of \$16.00

**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.

Long Island International Agricultural Outing Saturday – Sunday, April 30 – May 1, 2016

Diane will once again be escorting a small group to Long Island for a two-day bus outing to understand the agricultural side of Long Island that very few have seen. The group will be visiting wineries as well as other producers and all with an international flare. We will be staying over in Greenport and meeting many locals. This is a weekend not to be missed. To get your name on the list, please call the International Center at (518) 708-7608.



**International Groups Confirmed to
Visit thus far in 2016:**

**International Visitor Leadership
Program**
(US State Department sponsored)

like-minded individuals as well as celebrate both the season and our successes. Five individuals from the community were awarded “Golden Globes” for the above-and-beyond contributions to ICCR over the past year. These tremendous individuals included:
 Katie Britton, WAMC
 Alan Chartock, WAMC
 Robert (Bob) Freeman, Committee on Open Government
 Rex Smith, Times Union
 Veysel Ucan, Turkish Cultural Center Albany



Mary and Steve Muller, Dan Harrison and Lynne Oudekerk



Paul Meissing and Guest, Linda Finkle and Gregg Sagor



Fred Erlich, Gary McCann, Bob Tangorre and Assemblyman John McDonald



2015 Golden Gleebe Recipients Veysel Ucan, Turkish Cultural Center Katie Britton, WAMC Rex Smith, Times Union Bob Freeman, Committee on Open Committee
 (Not pictured Alan Chartock, WAMC)



Brenda and Mike Mugits

Montenegro
 Strategic Trade Management and Export Control
 February 10 - 11, 2016

Albania
 Municipal Governance in the U.S.
 February 10 - 13, 2016

Turkey
 Women’s Empowerment
 February 24 – 26, 2016

Sub-Regional
 Women Political Leaders
 March 8 - 10, 2016

OPEN WORLD
 (U.S. Congress sponsored)

Ukraine
 “Social Services:
 Serving Disabled Veterans”
 September 16 – 24, 2016

Opportunity to Travel to Indonesia This Spring

Cultural Vistas is recruiting ‘leader mentors’ to develop and deliver an interactive workshop involving ocean stewardship or coastal development during the YSEALI Generation: Oceans Workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia, March 16-20 (www.culturalvistas.org/yseali).

This regional workshop is part of the Obama Administration’s Young Southeast Asian Leadership Initiative (YSEALI), which engages 18-35 year old rising leaders in all ten ASEAN member states.

The ideal session will be interactive, engaging 30-35 persons to practically and proactively explore ways in which young people can help their governments and communities to address a full range of ocean resource and coastal development issues.

At the same time, leader mentors will provide guidance to a multinational team of four persons who will be developing action plans to implement post-workshop activities throughout the ASEAN region.

Ideal candidates are ages 25-35, and have education or experience in some aspect of ocean stewardship or coastal development (including disaster remediation and issues surrounding climate change/sea water rise) or experience in nonprofit management, resource development, volunteer management or communication and social media.

For those familiar with President Obama’s YSEALI effort, it has been very successful in attracting motivated young people interested in advancing their region’s development in the four YSEALI cores: education, economic opportunity, civic engagement and the environment. They are hungry for ideas, and seek to learn from success stories from within and outside the region.

Leader mentors must be able to commit to being engaged in pre-workshop virtual activities beginning around February 15th, and staying in Indonesia for the entire workshop (departing Jakarta Monday, March 21). We will select eight American leader mentors and eight Southeast Asian leader mentors.

Costs for travel to Jakarta, and accommodation and meals in Jakarta are covered by the grant from the U.S. Embassy Jakarta, as is a small stipend.

We are accepting applications through **January 20, 2016** from the website at www.culturalvistas.org/yseali. Selection of leader mentors will be confirmed or/about February 8.



Joe LaCivita, Hon. Andrew and Susan Sommers



Rafi Topalian, Prof. Phil DiNovo and Azra Haqqie

Holiday Pastries with Chef Joan Dembinski

Eighteen participants joined Chef Joan at the Celtic Hall on New Karner Road in Colonie for a wonderful, hands-on cooking class the morning of December 5th. Four international pastry recipes were made and everyone had an opportunity to roll up their sleeves to help create as well as sample their creations. Thank you Chef Joan!



Albany Hindu Temple

450 Albany Shaker Rd, Albany, NY 12211
www.albanyhindutemple.org

The Hindu Temple Society of Capital District, was founded in 1976 and is located in Loudonville, NY. It is a place of worship by Hindu devotees in and around Capital District and also visitors from other areas and all over the world.

Upcoming Activities at the American Italian Heritage Museum

1227 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12205
<http://www.americanitalianmuseum.org>

Tuesday, January 12th
1:00 pm : Book Club

Friday, January 15th
11:00am: Coffee w/friends

Thursday, January 21st
7:00pm: Monthly Meeting & Cultural Presentation Friday,

January 29th
6:30pm: Pizza and Movie Night

Upcoming Activities at the New Russian Cultural Center

PO Box 2383 Scotia, NY 12302
<http://www.newrussiacenter.org>

Rachmaninoff Music Competition: VOCAL DIVISION Seeking VOCAL Contestants 2016

Saturday, February 6, 2016 — 2:00PM
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
125 Eagle Street, Albany NY
Register by January 15, 2016

Vocal Division open to solo vocalists of all ages from age 12 to adults and divided into three categories: Middle-High School, Young Adults (including college students), and Adults.

Contestants will sing 1 song composed by the Russian composer of their own selection, including Classical Russian Arias, Russian Art songs, and Russian Folk songs in classical arrangements. A panel of three professional vocalists educators will judge performances. Competition will be on February 6th, 2016 beginning at 2pm.

Winners will be selected from each level and awarded at the special Concert and Ceremony on February 7th 2016.

Winners must agree to perform their piece at the Concert.

Application fee is \$35 per person.

Competition Awards:

\$50 USD, School Level

\$100 USD, Young Adult Level

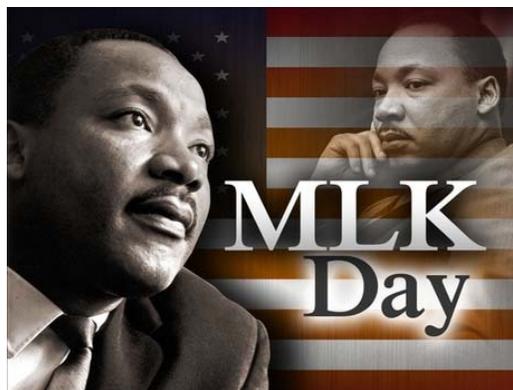
\$150 USD, Adult Level

A Quote Worth Noting...

Welcome

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

Nirvana Indian Restaurant, 5180 Western
Tpk, (RT.20) Altamont, NY 12009 –
Organizational Level
Paul Rosenberg - Household Level
Carol Whittaker - Household Level
Dian Williams - Household Level



"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."
MLK, Jr.



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 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



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info@iccralbany.org

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

**WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING
FOR VOLUNTEERS!!!!**



**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.

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

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



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