

Happy Holidays!
Let there be Peace on Earth.

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A Note of Heartfelt Appreciation



There's a trick to a graceful exit. It begins with the vision to recognize when a chapter, a life stage, a segment is nearing completion - and to have the ability to let go and cherishing the memories and many new friends and acquaintances made. It means leaving what's been initiated and accomplished without denying its value. Allowing the next stewards to take over with the anticipation of seeing more accomplished and celebrated by those left in charge.

It is with both joy and sadness that I will be bidding farewell to the International Center the beginning of January. I am unable to express adequately how sincerely appreciative I am to all those throughout the Capital Region who have assisted while I have been with ICCR; from those individuals who opened their homes for a meal or a homestay - to those who supported us through membership and

attendance/participation at events - to the countless individuals who volunteered to escort and share their incredible knowledge and expertise as a professional program resource for our hundreds of international visitors. As I have always said, ICCR's accomplishments have very little to do with the staff in the office. ICCR's success is truly dependent upon the support received from within the community. Thank you for a wonderful chapter.

Diane

Thank you, thank you, thank you...

For those in our community who have assisted with programs this past month, we are tremendously appreciative. We could have not done it without you! These wonderful individuals include:

Rosemary Armao, Jenn Baumstein, Mike Brooks, Jane LaCivita Clemente, Brooke Curran, Katie Derico, Joanne Durfee, Fred Erlich, Olubunmi Erogbogbo, Dr. Bassey Essien, Dominick Figliomeni, Bob Freeman, Tom Gallagher, Mike Gulotty, Bob Huber, Mark Johnson, Chief Edwin Kaliku, Joe LaCivita, Hon. John McDonald, Ron McGowty, Ryan Moll, Mike O'Brien, Dr. Tom Okure, Kristin O'Neill, Justin Rockenstyre, Kevin Roe, Matt Ryan, Rex Smith, Joyce Stah, Greg Stapleton, Casey Seiler, Bob Tangorre, Kurt Vincent, Bob Ward, Caroline Woods...

Recap of ICCR's December Activities

Financial Journalism: A Project for Nigeria

Albany Portion: December 7 to 9, 2016

The six-member group came to the United States, including Albany, to explore investigative techniques, improve understanding of budget information and examine methods of cooperation and accountability.



The visitors were thrilled to meet with Bob Freeman (fourth from left) and Kristin O'Neill (second from right) from the NYS Committee on Open Gov't



The group spent an incredible afternoon at the *Times Union* including attending an editorial meeting with Editor Rex Smith (center)



Kudos to the members of the Association of Nigerians in the Capital District of New York for an amazing evening of home hospitality shown to our visitors. Chief Edwin Kaliku, Ph.D. (center, seated) made all the delicious Nigerian dishes served.



On the set on WMHT's *New York Now*, *Times Union* Bureau Chief Casey Seiler (far left) and WMHT

Producer Matt Ryan (center) answered numerous questions asked from the visitors after the episode was tapped



The group's last professional meeting while in Albany was with the NYS Office of the State Comptroller, Deputy Comptroller Bob Ward (third from right) and Deputy Press Secretary Mark Johnson (second from left) did a great job explaining the inner-workings of NYS finances

German Christmas Markets Cooking Class with Chef Kurt Vincent
December 6th



Chef Kurt Vincent



Chef Kurt conversing with *Schenectady Today* Host Ann Parillo



ICCR volunteers Brooke Curran (left) and Caroline Woods (right) always willing to assist at ICCR's classes

Welcome to New and Returning ICCR Members

- Diane Funari - Household
- Christine Guerin – Household
- Sandra Rhoades – Household
- Li Zhang - Household

A quote worth noting...



“Happiness is not a goal; it is a by-product.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

Happy Holidays!

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