

# June 2014 Newsletter



## Busy Month of May

### IVLP

May 11- 14, 2014  
 Young Leaders: Influential Voices  
 South and Central Asia



### It is official – ICCR has a new home

In an effort to have more accessibility to our members and foreign visitors, as well as the general public, the ICCR offices have been relocated to the [Albany Visitors Center](#) [25 Quackenbush Square](#) (adjacent to the Albany Pump Station and the Olde English Pub).

We are extremely thankful to Michele Vennard, President /CEO at Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau and Kathy Quandt, Director of Operations for making this happen. Please stop down and say “hi.” If you have not seen the permanent exhibit on Albany at the Visitors Center, you are in for a treat. An extra added benefit – there is plenty of parking available.



Tom Gallagher, Cornell Coop. Ext. with Visitor from India



A Visitor from Pakistan making a public

## Upcoming International Center Sponsored Activities

**service announcement WVCR, radio station for Siena College.**



**The group enjoying Tulip Festival in Washington Park.**



**The group with Ray Patterson from The Stakeholders**

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**May 14 – 17, 2014  
Rights of Disabled Persons  
Mauritius**



**Mr. Pyaneandee meeting with Tim Clune, Executive Director and Cliff Zucker, General Counsel from Disability Rights New York**



**BUS TRIP**

**A Day of Italy & Italian-American Heritage in NYC**

On Friday, June 6, 2014, the International Center of the Capital Region is sponsoring a one-day bus outing from Albany to NYC to celebrate and discover Italian-American history, heritage and cuisine. The trip includes visits to the historic Italian Consulate on Park Avenue and a stop in Little Italy in lower Manhattan for a meal and shopping. The cost is \$70 and includes transportation, snacks on the bus and admission to stated activities.

The group will leave at 7:00 AM and return at approximately 7:00 PM. Space is limited. To make a reservation or for more info call

ICCR at (518) 708-7608 or [info@iccralbany.org](mailto:info@iccralbany.org).

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**Upcoming International Groups in June**

**June 1 – 4, 2014  
Accountability in Government and Business (IVLP)  
Indonesia**

**June 18 – 21, 2014  
Youth Crime Prevention (IVLP)  
Paraguay**

**June 20 -28, 2014  
Urban Planning/Development (Open World)  
Kosovo**

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Meeting with Craig Walton, District Manager, NYS Commission for the Blind



Meeting with Sharon Phillips, Regional Librarian, NYS Library Talking Book and Braille Library

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May 18 – 20, 2014  
Disability Rights  
Near East and North Africa



The group meeting at SUNY with Carolyn Malloch, Director, Disability Resource Center



*Girl Rising*

ICCR was chosen by the Global Campaign for Education, United States Chapter, as a host community to serve as a screening location for the film *Girl Rising* during International Education Week of May 5 – 9. *Girl Rising* tells the stories of nine girls from nine developing countries in Africa, Asia and South America. Each girl had her story composed by a writer from her country and is voiced in the movie by renowned actors. Their stories reflect their struggles to overcome societal or cultural barriers. It focuses on their individual efforts to get an education, interspersed with facts about the importance of investing in education for girls around the globe.

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, we offered two viewings at the Linda, WAMC's performing space and early in the day we were joined by approximately 150 students and teachers from eight area schools as well as the film's Managing Director Christina Lowery, the Founder of the Grace Association in Pakistan Khadim Hussain, and Columbia County native Tobias Geisler Mesevage.

A huge THANK YOU to Ashley Wilson and Brian Callahan of the Global Campaign for Education for selecting Albany and ICCR! A second THANK YOU goes to Dominique at Hudson-Chatham Winery for being with us for the evening screening and sharing her wonderful wines! A third THANK YOU goes to Graeme McKenna at the Linda for always willing to be such a wonderful partner!



[CBA - Christian Brothers Academy](#)



**Meeting with Cliff Zucker from Disability Rights New York**



**Fred Erlich, CEO, Living Resources with a Visitor**



**A wonderful evening of Home Hospitality with the help of several ICCR Board Members and Supporters**

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### Community Events



**Hoosic Valley High School**



**Academy of Holy Names**



**Heatly High School (Green Island)**



**Shenendehowa High School**

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### PolishFest

June 6 - 8, 2014  
Friday 5PM - 9PM, Saturday Noon - 9PM and  
Sunday 11:30AM - 6PM  
250 Old Maxwell Rd, just off I-87  
Latham, NY 12110  
(518) 453.2258

<http://www.polishfest-ny.org/information.html>

**ADMISSIONS: \$3**

The Capital District's PolishFest is a celebration of Polish heritage – the food, music, art, language, customs and the culture of the Polish people. The annual Festival is held on the grounds of Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Church.

The Festival features a vast array of favorite traditional Polish foods, including pierogi (stuffed dumplings), golabki (cabbage rolls), kielbasa (sausage), Bigos (hunter stew), Borscht (beet soup) and a huge assortment of gourmet Polish desserts lovingly prepared by our parishioners. Music and traditional Polish dances entertain festival-goers throughout the day. Inside the parish hall, visitors can enjoy Polish craft vendors.

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### 2014 ARMENIAN FESTIVAL

June 7 & 8, 2014  
The annual Armenian Festival will be held on the St. Peter Armenian Church grounds at 100 Troy Schenectady Road, Watervliet, NY  
on  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 7,**  
from 12:00 to 8:00 pm  
and  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 8,**  
from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm.

Get ready for great LIVE music featuring the JOHN BERBERIAN ENSEMBLE, great food, and great fun! In addition, a variety of vendors will be available for purchasing unique items, gifts and souvenirs. There will also be cooking demonstrations, a tour of the church, and carnival games and rides for children and adults -- FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.

Contact the St. Peter Church office at (518) 274-3673 or [stpeter.armch@prodigy.net](mailto:stpeter.armch@prodigy.net) for Sponsorship opportunities or for purchasing raffle tickets for our APPLE RAFFLE with a variety of Apple-related prizes such a Mac LapTop, an iPad, Harvest Spirits Farm basket of apple cheer.....\$200  
GC FROM TOP CUSTOM JEWELERS (RAFI THE SINGING JEWELER),  
GCARDS FROM STEWARTS AND MANY MORE RAFFLE PRIZES...

### Updates On The Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX)



Diana with host mom Diane Marquit



A good time was had by all at the FLEX group's farewell party on a beautiful May day

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**American-Italian Heritage Museum**

1227 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12205  
518-435-1979

<http://www.americanitalianmuseum.org>

**Celebrating 35 years!**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Thursday, June 5th - 6:30pm:  
7th Annual Cooking Show (Glen Sanders  
Mansion)**

**Thursday, June 12th - 11:00am-2:00pm:  
35th Birthday Open House**

**Wednesday, June 18th - 11:00am:  
Puccini Opera "Turandot"**

**Friday, June 27th - 5:00-8:00pm:  
Italian Festival on the lawn**

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**Turkish Women's Club of TCC Albany**

has been organizing Special Turkish Coffee Night for ladies. Women get together at the event, learn about Turkish Culture and play cultural games. Each event hosted a guest speaker who shared their experiences in Turkey... -

See more at:

<http://www.turkishculturalcenter.org/tcc-albany-womens-coffee-nights/#sthash.29sumicf.dpuf>

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**THANK  
YOU**



**Sadly, students have started to depart! The FLEX program builds unbreakable bonds between students and their host families. Here's to the amazing families who made this year successful!**



**Yuliya at the airport with Paula and Richard Brewer**



**THANK YOU TO SANDRA VARNO OF  
CORNELL COOP. EXT.**

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, fun was had by all for a wonderful hands-on workshop "Growing and Utilizing an Herb Garden." Sandra is tremendous supporter of ICCR and we truly appreciate her efforts.

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**THANK YOU TO THE TURKISH CULTURAL  
CENTER ALBANY (TCCA)!**



**Arus with host sister Macaela and host mom Rachael Rourke hoping her luggage is within the weight limits!**



**A heartfelt goodbye with her host dad Jay Rourke. Safe travels to all; you will be missed!**

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On May 15<sup>th</sup>, approximately 30 attended a screening of the Turkish movie *SELAM* at the Albany Visitors Center in collaboration with ICCR and included a wonderful Turkish meal beforehand! ICCR truly appreciates our many, many local affinity groups and their continual willingness to do collaborative programming including TCCA and its Director Veysel Ucan.

Please check out TCCA at <http://www.turkishculturalcenter.org/category/tcc-albany/>

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### Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast Reception a Great Success

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, ICCR hosted its half-year appreciation reception with a breakfast at the Albany Visitors Center. The grateful Staff and Board of Directors of the International Center invited all our supporters to attend. Because of them and their involvement with our programs and initiatives, we continue to grow.



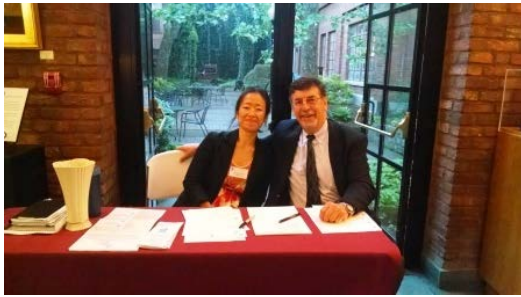
The group posing for photos on the Million Dollar Staircase in the NYS Capitol

ICCR was asked to provide a partial day of hosting in Albany for a large group from India who were in the US under a program sponsored by the Maxwell School of Public Affairs and Citizenship at Syracuse University. They thoroughly enjoyed touring the City.



Check out our website!  
[www.iccralbany.org](http://www.iccralbany.org)





Staffer Kaori Chen with Board Member Bob Wolfgang checking in our guests.



"The Singing Jeweler", Rafi Topalian entertaining our guests with the singing of the National Anthem and Happy Birthday.

We cannot say it enough – thanks!

merci!, Ευχαριστίες,  
podziękowanie, γρήτ, Спасибі, あ  
りがとうございました

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World Affairs Councils of America

[www.worldaffairscouncils.org](http://www.worldaffairscouncils.org)



The National Council for International Visitors (NCIV)

[www.nciv.org](http://www.nciv.org)



“Join our Mailing List”

[info@iccralbany.org](mailto: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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