



### **I'm Back.....**

My apologies for the gap in communications since my first introductory email, but the delay has been, mostly, for good reason. My time was spent between an amazing pre-planned vacation to the country of Panama over the New Year, hosting a visiting group of government tax professionals from Ukraine, attending our National Global Ties conference in Washington DC and having a small role in Guyana's 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee celebration in Schenectady....

Mostly, I have spent countless hours on the core work of ICCR; writing proposals to qualify to bringing international groups to the Capital Region as part of the national study tours organized by the US State Dept., meeting our friends/ potential friends/stakeholders and positioning the ICCR for growth.

One thing that has been a wonderful surprise for me is the important role ICCR volunteers play. As a slimly staffed organization (err... a staff of one, plus our new intern Trevis who I'll formally introduce next time) it is our volunteers who are the backbone of what we do. And what can volunteers (you) do to help ICCR? Here are some ideas:

1. **Home Hospitality/Hosts:** Host members of a delegation at your home for dinner or as overnight guests.
2. **Events/Outreach:** Helping with the organizing of events that raise funds and/or awareness of ICCR and global diplomacy in our community.
3. **Trip Escort:** Of visiting international delegations to our area.
4. **Ambassadors:** In our community to educate folks about ICCR and our activities, be local "Global Diplomats" and connect us to expert speakers, resources, potential partnerships to help us grow.
5. **IT:** Pro bono assistance in developing a plan for our current and future social media & information systems to be more nimble in our approach.

And.....organizing for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual "Tastes of the World" event is in full swing. Please note that the event date this year is June 10, 2020 5:30 - 8:30 PM at the Albany Hampton Inn. It is going to be a great event and we've got lots to celebrate. *I'll let you in on a little secret....one of those being honored will be ICCR's past Executive Director Diane Conroy-LaCivita; recognizing her years of service on behalf of the global community at ICCR and currently on behalf of seniors as Executive Director of Colonie Senior Service Centers. Save the date on your calendar now. If you are interested in volunteering (there are lots of opportunities before and during the event) attending and sponsoring the event please let me*

*know.*

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**International Visitors Coming to the Capital Region**

**Visiting International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) groups:** We have been fortunate to have proposals accepted for three visiting groups in the next few weeks. Here is who from around the globe that is coming to visit the Capital Region:

**March 10 - 13, 2020:**

**Country of Origin:** Afghanistan

**Study Topic:** Cooperation, Transparency and Internal Controls in Investigations, Prosecutions and the Execution of Court Orders

**Who They Are:** Judges. Legal and Law Enforcement professionals.

**March 12 - 17, 2020:**

**Country of Origin:** Mexico

**Study Topic:** State government's role in accountability, transparency and freedom of Information protections

**Who They Are:** Government officials from throughout Mexico in the legal and law enforcement areas.

**April 1-2, 2020**

**Country of Origin:** Tajikistan

**Study Topic:** Media for Government Press Officers

**Who They Are:** Government press officers.

*If you are interested in hosting members of our Mexican delegation for dinner at your home on Friday night March 13, 2020 or to serve as a trip escort for any of these delegations (or future ones) please let me know.*

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# SAVE THE DATE

*The International Center of the Capital Region  
presents  
the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual  
TASTES of the WORLD  
Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 5:30 – 8:00 PM  
Hampton Inn & Suites, 25 Chapel St, Albany, NY 12210*

Partnered with



**Celebrate!** 80<sup>th</sup> year of U. S. State Dpt.'s International Visitors Leadership Program  
**Honor!** Great Community Leaders  
**Support!** The International Center of the Capital Region  
**Enjoy!** Food from around the globe prepared by local restaurant chefs.



More Information: [info@iccralbany.org](mailto:info@iccralbany.org) 518.708.7608

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Please Join Us!

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



**Sunday, March 8, 2020**  
**12 noon to 3 p.m.**  
**The Beltrone Living Center**  
**6 Winners Circle, Albany, NY**

This event is free and open to all.

This is an historic year for women. March 8, 2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women winning the right to vote by the federal government with the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. constitution. That is 100 years of being heard, of making change, of standing



**What is it?**

Academic WorldQuest™ is a flagship youth education program of the national network of World Affairs Councils. It is a team game testing high school students' knowledge of international affairs. In the game, four-person teams compete by answering multiple choice questions divided into ten unique and engaging thematic categories.

**Local Competition**

Saturday, March 28, 2020, 9:00am-1:00pm  
Shaker High School  
445 Watervliet-Shaker Road  
Latham, NY 12110

**2019-2020 Topics**

1. U.S.-Russia Relations
2. Country in Focus: South Korea
3. Preventing Extremism in Fragile States
4. Oceans: The World's Garbage Dump
5. Great Decisions
6. Brexit and the EU
7. China's Belt & Road Initiative
8. Germany: 30 Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall
9. Qatar and the Future of the Gulf Cooperation Council
10. Current Events



**Local Competition Details**

On Saturday, March 28, 2020, from 9:00am-1:00pm, at Shaker High School, the International Center of the Capital Region is sponsoring a local Academic WorldQuest competition for high school students. Schools can enter up to three (3) four-member student teams plus alternates in the local competition, with teams competing to represent the Capital Region at the annual national competition taking place on April 25, 2020, in Washington DC.

The registration fee for the Local Competition is \$40 per team. Payment can be made in advance or on the date of the competition, with checks made payable to the International Center of the Capital Region. Please register by March 20, using the Google Form [<https://forms.gle/xqXEf6VCrejdDf8f6>] or scan this QR Code:



For the local competition, please direct questions to Andrew Krakat ([andrewkrakat@nccolonie.org](mailto:andrewkrakat@nccolonie.org)), or Mark Weintraub, ([info@iccralbany.org](mailto:info@iccralbany.org)).

# MULTICULTURAL Festival

**Location: Colonie Central High School GYM (1  
Raider Blvd. Albany, NY)**

**Date: Friday, April 3rd 2020**

**Time: 5:00-8:00pm**

**ADMISSION: Free! \*Donations WELCOME**

**Celebrating our heritage cultures through  
music, art, games, informational displays  
and food!!!!**



For more information, to **sign up** to host a culture booth, participate in the International Fashion Show or Volunteer, please visit:

**[www.scmcfest.com](http://www.scmcfest.com)**

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