February 2015 Newsletter

Meet ICCR’s New Interns for the Spring 2015 Semester

WELCOME!

Caryn McDonald

From Eagle Bridge, NY, Caryn is currently working on completing her Master’s degree in Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies at the University of Albany, SUNY. After completing her Bachelor’s degree in Latin American Studies and Spanish, minor, International Studies at SUNY Plattsburgh, she spent a year working at a nonprofit health facility assisting recent immigrants from Latin America in navigating the healthcare system.

LADIES’ TURKISH COFFEE NIGHT

Saturday, FEBRUARY 7, 2015 at 6:00 PM
at TCC Albany, 291 Broadway, Menands NY

This Month’s Theme: LEARN ABOUT ISLAM FROM MUSLIMS!

Guest Speaker: Dr. Mussarat Chaudhry

Turkish American Women’s Club cordially invites you and your guests to Turkish coffee night for ladies where delicious homemade Turkish food and desserts will be served as well as Turkish coffee and tea.

Come join us at this informal event and learn more about Islam and meet with new Muslim friends!

Please RSVP to rsvp@tccalbany.org Phone: (518)366-8725
Caryn hopes to use her studies and experiences to promote international cooperation, or contribute to advocacy on behalf of human rights.

Zena Zimmerglass

From Round Lake, NY, Zena is a sophomore at SUNY Albany majoring in Linguistics and Globalization Studies with a minor in French. Zena loves traveling and learning about new cultures. For the Spring semester, Zena has taken on the responsibility of recruiting, organizing and implementing Academic WorldQuest for ICCR.

SEXUALITY WEEK 2015
FEATURED SPEAKER
DONNA FREITAS

“SEX AND THE SOUL”
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015, 7:00 PM
Campus Center Ballroom
University at Albany, SUNY
Sponsored by The Interfaith Center

The program is free and open to the public.

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For further information contact Donna Crisafulli at dcrisafulli@albany.edu

There are still seats available for an Unique Opportunity to Discover Area Religions and Places of Worship

On Saturday, February 14th from 9:00 – 4:00 PM, the International Center of the Capital Region is sponsoring a local bus trip entitled Sacred Spaces Tour: Places of Worship, Love & Understanding.

The Capital Region’s diversity is reflected in its places of worship. Enjoy a unique guided Valentine’s Day bus tour visiting seven (7) separate locations; four churches (St. Peter’s Episcopal (Albany), St. Joseph’s (Troy), St. Nicholas Ukrainian (Watervliet), St. Peter’s Armenian (Watervliet)), the Hindu Temple (Colonie), the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (Albany) and the Al-Hidaya Center (Latham). 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 sweet treats throughout the tour. Call to reserve your spot (518) 708-7608 or email info@iccralbany.org.
TASTES of the World and the second interview is with CBA English Teacher and Academic Coach Jennifer Kish along with CBA Senior Johnny Woods speaking about preparing and participating in Academic WorldQuest for a second year in a row.

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Being initiated in 2015 by the International Center, the Capital Region Immigration Oral History Project will collect and preserve the firsthand interviews of Capital Region immigrants. ICCR will rely on staff, interns and trained community volunteers to conduct interviews to gather first-hand stories about immigrant experiences. First-person narratives, regardless of how long ago, are enlightening and provide insight into individual immigrant stories. In addition to audio- and video-recorded interviews, a sampling of individuals interviewed will be photographed and included in a proposed upcoming pictorial traveling exhibit.

Check out the link to a recent Daily Gazette article on the project: http://dailygazette.com/news/2015/jan/19/immigrant-oral-history/?free

We are very excited about Gail Walker’s visit to Albany. This is an amazing woman with a deep knowledge and understanding of Cuba and of USA-Cuban relations. Gail is the Executive Director of the Inter-religious Foundation for Community Organization, a nearly 50-year-old organization with an outstanding record of assisting the poor and disenfranchised in developing and sustaining community organizations to fight human and civil rights injustices in the USA, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. Gail has participated and led many humanitarian missions to these countries, including the one in 1988 to Nicaragua in which the ferry she was traveling in was attacked by USA-supported Contras that killed 2 persons and wounded 29 others (including her father, 1993 Gandhi Peace Award recipient, Rev. Lucius Walker). Far from being deterred, Gail has continued her work, including organizing and accompanying 15 of the 25 annual Pastors for Peace Friendshipment Caravans that have delivered thousands of tons of medicine; medical equipment; computers; school and construction supplies & equipment; dozens of school buses, ambulances, and mobile libraries. In addition the Cuba caravans have provided unique people-to-people experiences of working and sharing with Cubans to several thousand Americans, all in defiance of draconian USA restrictions. Gail is an award-winning radio producer, on-air host and journalist and holds an MA in Media Studies from the New School.

Gail Walker will explain and discuss the recent Cuba-USA accords announced jointly by Presidents Raul Castro and Barack Obama on December 17. She will discuss the implications of these accords for the struggle to end the 50+ year embargo and travel ban (Obama has gone about as far as he can, ending the embargo, travel ban and other absurd policies can only be done by Congress).

When:
Wednesday Feb. 18 6PM
Where:
Albany Public Library
161 Washington Ave., Albany, NY
Free parking on the Elk Street entrance
Free and open to the public

Sunday, March 8th, 2015,
2:00 – 5:00 PM
Please join us and bring other women who have influenced your life for
International Women’s Day
2015 Capital Region Celebration
“MAKE IT HAPPEN”
If you or someone you know is interested in sharing your first-hand immigrant experience please contact the International Center at (518) 708-7608 or info@iccralbany.org.

Calling Junior Cooks!
Global Cuisine Recipe Challenge for Children

The contest, which is being sponsored by ICCR and the World Awareness Children’s Museum, is seeking chefs ages 5 -12 to share family recipes that are original and represent a family tradition. Write up and submit a "culturally inspired" family recipe along with a drawing or photo of the completed dish and a short description.

Entries will be judged in three age categories: Kindergarten – 2nd grade, 3rd – 4th grade, and 5th – 6th grade.

Recipes will be accepted until Wednesday, April 15th, 2015.

Recipe submissions should fall into one of three categories: appetizer/side side, entrees, or dessert/snacks. Awards and prizes will be presented at a celebratory reception, which will take place at the World Awareness Children’s Museum in Glens Falls on Sunday, May 18th.

Contact ICCR at (518) 708-7608 for an official entry form.

International Women’s Day

International Women's Day represents an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for greater equality. This year 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. Our keynote speaker will be State University at Albany Professor of Journalism Rosemary Armao.

NOTE: Wear purple. The International Women's Day event features the purple color, symbol of Venus, representing the female beings.

Saturday, March 21, 2015
from 9:00 – 1:00
Local Academic WorldQuest
at the Celtic Hall
430 New Karner Road, Colonie

The International Center of the Capital Region will once again be sponsoring a local Academic WorldQuest competition at the Celtic Hall in Colonie with the anticipation of sending the winning four-member team and faculty coach down to Washington DC to represent our region in the national Academic WorldQuest competition taking place on Saturday, April 25th, 2015. There is no cost to participate. Additionally, ICCR will cover the costs of overnight accommodations and flights for the winning team plus faculty coach to attend the national competition. Academic WorldQuest is the World Affairs Councils of America’s flagship student education program. The main objective of the program is to inform and engage high school students and their teachers across the country in global affairs. Each year, over 4000 students, test their knowledge of
UPCOMING OPEN WORLD AND IVLP Programming for ICCR

Upcoming IVLP groups coming to the Capital Region in February:

Feb 8 -11, Georgia, U.S. Agricultural Production & Marketing
Feb 24 -28, Georgia, The Role of Public Affairs Officers
Feb. 26 - 28, Turkey, Environmental Sustainability
Feb 27 - March 4, Malaysia, Islamic School Management

“The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.”
Eleanor Roosevelt

The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.

World Affairs
Councils of America
www.worldaffairscouncils.org
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SIENAcollege
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ICCR
515 Loudon Road
Foy Hall
Loudonville, NY 12211

GLOBALTIES® U.S.
AT THE CENTER OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!
International Students: This Spring Break jumpstart your career and explore American life and culture.

What is Meet America?
Designed for international students studying in the U.S., the Meet America program allows you to make one-on-one connections as you explore an American community and learn about careers in your field of interest.

Download application for:

March 8-13: Washington, DC
March 15-20: Chicago, IL

Learn how to leverage your international background, get noticed by employers, and experience American culture at the local level. Meet America is a fun way to spend your Spring Break, while discovering a new city, meeting new people, and learning what skills YOU need to be successful.

Scholarships for up to $500 are available!
Scholarship consideration ends January 31 and all applications are due February 8. If you would like to apply for a scholarship, please contact Franzi Rook at MeetAmerica@globaltiesus.org.

To apply today, download the application.

As part of the evening's program, we will be honoring Professor/CAV Philip J. DiNovo, President/Executive Director at American Italian Heritage Association & Museum for his dedication to preserving the legacy of Italian-Americans throughout the last forty years. The Italian Government knighted him in the 1970s.

Tickets are available for $50 by calling (518) 708-7608 or info@iccralbany.org.

TASTES of the World Sponsors include:

RAFI THE SINGING JEWELER
Top Custom Jeweler, Watervliet

Southwoods Investment Group

CBRE
CB Richard Ellis
Capital Region Language Center
Connecting You To The World Through Language
RAFI THE SINGING JEWELER
Top Custom Jeweler, Watervliet

http://us6.campaign-archive2.com/?u=f8c757fc123500298b01521dc&id=e3a3f8e4c6[2/19/2015 2:23:34 PM]
ICCR is in need of Home Hospitality Hosts

Possibly interested in opening your home for an evening meal for international visitors? If so, we need you!

Very often we are asked by our colleagues in Washington, DC to provide an evening meal in a home setting for our visitors while they are in the Capital Region. An evening of Home Hospitality gives our international visitors an opportunity to meet area residents in an informal setting and for our community members to meet and learn from individuals from around the world. Frequently, our visitors comment that the best portion of their travel was the opportunity to meet average Americans in a home setting.

ICCR will hold a home hospitality orientation session on

**Tuesday, February 24th** at 6:00 PM at our offices on the Campus of Siena College. **Dinner is on us.** We will walk through how to feel comfortable opening your home to international guests.

Please call to RSVP: 518-708-7608

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Check out our website!

www.iccralbany.org

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ICCR will be teaming up with the Linda, WAMC’s Performing Arts Studio, in Albany to hold four events to be held in 2015 each with a distinctive theme that will highlight the history, art, food and music of a particular country/culture. **The first is scheduled for Thursday, April 23rd** and will focus on Japan in honor of Washington DC’s annual cherry blossom festival. Followed by India - June 11th, Kenya - September 24th and Brazil - December 3rd. Event Passports will be distributed to those in attendance at each celebration. The small booklet will contain a page for each participating entity (artists, restaurants and organizations), with questions having to do with the evening’s theme. Attendees will be able to go to the different booths where they will find the answer to the question and have their “passport” stamped. Those who answer all the questions will have their names entered into a drawing for prizes. Join us for these fun festive celebrations of the world’s unique and diverse cultures.

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

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!!!!

Saturday, April 25, 2015
2015 Academic WorldQuest National Competition
The competition will take place at the Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center in Washington, DC. ICCR is planning on sending our regional winners don to participate.

Monday, July 13 –
Friday, July 24, 2015
DIPLOMACY STARTS HERE:
Global Understanding and Citizen Diplomat Summer Camp
The International Center of the Capital Region in collaboration with Siena College has announced its first annual global understanding and citizen diplomat camp for students going into grades 10 through 12, set for July 13-24, 2015 at locations throughout the Capital Region including Siena College Campus and New York City, and covering negotiation, media analysis, foreign languages, culinary diplomacy, etiquette and communications skills. The faculty will feature instructors and guest presenters expert in their fields, including business, government and non-profit leaders, seasoned educators and diplomats. The ten-day program begins at Siena College and will conclude with a one-day excursion to New York City where students will visit the United Nations and a Consulate to learn firsthand how diplomats work together. Their final day will consist of project presentations and a parent’s reception. The goal of the camp is to have the participants apply their new skills to their daily lives to create a ripple effect that can impact their own communities immediately. Everyone benefits when we create a public environment where a diverse community is challenged to share ideas about international issues while considering other points of view. The commitment to the values of inclusion and diversity of thought and perspective makes us better learners, employees, leaders, and citizens.

GLOBAL TIES 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

HAPPY CHINESE NEWS YEAR!
February 19th
The Year of the Goat
Check out the
US-China Friendship Association
Northeast New York Chapter – Albany
www.uscpfany.org
Their goal is to develop and strengthen friendship and understanding between the peoples of the United States and the People's Republic of China.

ENGLISH CLASSES AT SIENA COLLEGE

LEARN ENGLISH!
at Siena College

WHO: All classes are taught by students in the TESOL program, Department of Education, supervised by ESOL specialist Dr. Melody Nadeau.

WHAT: FREE Adult English classes!

WHEN: Tuesday and Thursday 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.
February 10 to April 14, 2015

WHERE: Siena College, Kiernan Hall Room 110.

HOW: To pre-register, contact Dr. Nadeau mnadeau@sienna.edu, or call 518-742-6924

Register on Tuesday, February 10, starting at 4:00 p.m. in KIERNAN 110

(View Flyer)

100TH ANNV INVITE AND 2015 GENOCIDE EVENTS CALENDAR

Dear Friends,

In association with the rest of the country and the world, the Capital District Armenian Community will be solemnly and appropriately observing the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in 2015. To continue surviving as a nation, we have to remember and demand justice for perpetuated past crimes.

(Read More)

(View Capital District and National Armenian Genocide Centennial Commemoration Events Calendar)

RUSSIAN WINTER FESTIVAL 2015
The Russian Winter Festival was established in 2009 by the New Russia Cultural Center. The major purpose of the Russian Winter Festival is to celebrate, introduce and promote traditional Russian art and culture to the community. The Festival is a month-long event.

**Tchaikovsky Piano Competition** - February 7 at 10:30am-12:30pm - Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of Albany

**Nadezhda Obukhova Classical Vocal Competition** - February 7 at 1:30pm-2:30pm - Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of Albany

**All Winners Concert** (piano and vocal) - February 8 at 1:30pm - Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of Albany

**Say “Happy Valentine’s Day” in Russian, Dinner Event** - February 14 at 6:00pm – Mohawk Golf Club of Niskayuna

**Festival Grand Finale** - final day of the Festival Saturday, February 28th 2015 at the Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Ave. Ext, Albany, NY. It's a day of traditional Russian food, music, dances, costumes, exhibits, performances, crafts and contests.

**Russian Cake Contest** – February 28 at 12:00pm – festival site

**Russian Poetry Recital Contest** - February 28 at 12:30pm – festival site

**Best Braided Hairdo Contest** - February 28 at 2:30pm – festival site

For more information visit [www.NewRussiaCenter.org/russian-winter-festival](http://www.NewRussiaCenter.org/russian-winter-festival)