National Women's History Month
Daylight Savings Time
Freedom of Information Day
Happy St. Patrick's Day
Happy Spring
Happy Easter

RECAP OF Feb 6th
2nd Annual SACRED SPACES TOUR
Our group of twenty-four was able to visit six sacred spaces. It was an incredible day of discovery and friendship. All of our hosts could not have been more sincere and welcoming. Thank you to all who hosted and participated.

(photos by Ned Pratt)

Tuesday, March 8th, 2016, 5:30 - 8:00 PM
International Women’s Day

International Women’s Day 2016
Tuesday, March 8, 5:30 - 8PM
#PledgeForParity

Join us as we celebrate accomplished women from the Capital Region who advance the cause of gender equality everyday.

Participants include:
- Hannibal’s East
- Smith’s Family Restaurant
- US Constitution for Peace and Harmony Library
- Legoery Research Center
- US Peace Corps
- Meyer-Hendrick
- Pease Family Restaurant
- Award-winning Food Co-op
- Labor Center
- Women’s Center
- KU Women
- Phi Alpha

Keynote Speaker: Janelle Holzer, associate professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the UAlbany.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Martina Oles
Martina Oles
UAlbany Student

"I'm a student from Germany and being part of an international program is just awesome! I'm happy to be able to learn more about the American culture and other cultures as well through the ICCR and contributing to this important part of global ties."

Mantasha Rashid

UAlbany Graduate Student

"A Fulbright fellow from Kashmir, a conflict region within India. Currently pursuing Master's in Women's Studies with a concentration in Policy making, I have worked in non-profits, and also the state government. I am passionate about the issues concerning women and I like to use intersectional analysis to understand and resolve them."
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.

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!!

The competition will take place in the Capital Room at the Staybridge Suites, 39 Wolf Road, Albany, NY.

Area high schools participating include: Academy of the Holy Names, Catholic Central High School, Christian Brothers Academy, Colonie High School and Shenendehowa High School.
St. Michael’s Church, Cohoes

Al-Fatemah Islamic Center, Colonie

RECAP of Albanian Delegation

Delegation outside of Schenectady City Hall

Albanian Delegation visiting with David Fronk, Director of Operations for the City of Schenectady

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
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.

Thursday, April 7th, 5:30 – 8:00 PM
3rd Annual TASTES of the World

The International Center of the Capital Region cordially invites you to the 3rd Annual

TASTES of the World

INTERNATIONAL FOOD TASTING FESTIVAL
Thursday, April 7, 2016
5:30 – 8:00 PM

The Praxis House, Town of Colonie’s Cultural Center
201 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham, NY 12110

Participating Restaurants, Chefs & Local Producers:

For Albanian Pump Station – Enemci Untari, Former
Bake For You – Cindy Cooling, Proprietor
Brownstone Market Kitchen – Jason Gardi, Director of Marketing
Ele Century House – Chef Dominique Brady
Charlie Carroll – Chef Patrick Jones
Fire Ballasted Catering – Jeremy Stakes
Nonsensical Country Club – Chef Lee Cohn
R & G Kammermayer – Sean O’Connor, Proprietor
Red Lion – Chef Brona Albery
Restaurant Venues – Chef Julie Scudder
Stella’s Restaurant and Pub – Chef Brent “Ski” Speaker
Vreo’s Restaurant – Chef Fred Parsons and Chef Ken Swain

HONORARY CHAIR:
Paul Ganimian, Editor-in-Chief
Paul has been a reporter at the Times Union for over 30 years, and has covered every area of a local, state, and international issues. He has had the chance to travel the world ranging from the depths of the Amazon to the heights of the Himalayas, including political biographies of Teddy Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy. He is the author of 20 books.

V规范 ALLA

Valerio Ciafardini, Ambassador of Ukraine
Albanian visitors meet with Staff from Staybridge Suites on Wolf Road in Colonie who are from Albania

Albanian Mayors met with Assemblymembers Fahy and McDonald in the NYS Assembly Chamber (ICCR escort and Board Member Bob Huber, second from left)

Russian Cooking Class
Fun was had by all...at second class in series

Instructor Tanya Deptola from the New Russian Cultural Center shows participants how to prepare Borsch

"Vinaigrette" Salad with Beets

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.

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

Welcome New and Returning Members
We so appreciate your support!

In honor of the 70th Anniversary of the International Center for Cultural Relations Inc (ICCR)

Thank you, thank you, thank you!
you...we so appreciate your dedication and assistance during the month of February
"If the world had more people like you it would be a better place."

World Affairs Councils of America
www.worldaffairs councils.org

Check out our website!
www.iccralbany.org

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

The International Center of the Capital Region, Rochester Global Connections and the World Affairs Council of Western Massachusetts in partnership with the U.S. Department of State and Global Ties U.S., will be sponsoring a one-day diplomacy summit entitled Women’s Empowerment: Keys to Leadership. The daylong event will explore integrating local and regional gender dimensions into various dialogues and workshops as a way of investigating gender barriers and unleashing the productive potential of women, and how all of this relates to diplomacy and international exchange. Workshops throughout the day will drill down into specific discussions such as a historic perspective, academic studies and accomplishments, governmental representation, journalism, non-profit leadership, LGBT and human rights, handicap and disability rights, entrepreneurialism, and sports diplomacy. We are anticipating several hundred attendees throughout the day from upstate New York and Massachusetts, as well as individuals from across the United States that share a common interest in encouraging women leadership.

Spotlight on Turkey - Calling All Teachers and Principals

JOIN US ON
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.

“Join our Mailing List”
info@iccralbany.org

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

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING
FOR VOLUNTEERS!!!!

ICCR Selected for New Initiative – The 2016 Young Transatlantic Innovation Leadership Initiative
June 4th – 19th, 2016

The 2016 Young Transatlantic Innovation Leadership Initiative (YTILI) is an international exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau for European and Eurasian Affairs, focused on the themes of developing entrepreneurial skills and enhancing economic opportunities for young professionals in Europe. Participants from around Europe will spend three weeks in the United States working at host institutions (NGOs, private businesses, academic institutions, or local government offices) arranged by selected Community-Based Members (CBMs) or other local organizations based on the participants’ areas of expertise and professional goals. Participants will be assigned a mentor and have the opportunity to participate in the day-to-day operations of American organizations and benefit from job-shadowing and professional interaction with their American peers. ICCR will be seeking individuals in the Capital Region willing to serve as home hosts for this program.

International Groups Confirmed to Visit thus far in 2016:

International Visitor Leadership Program
(US State Department sponsored)
Sub-Regional
Women Political Leaders March 8 - 10, 2016

West Bank
Improving Law Enforcement Partnerships
March 20 – 23, 2016

Turkey
Women's Empowerment June 2, 2016

OPEN WORLD
(U.S. Congress sponsored)

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

Irish American Heritage Museum
370 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207

Upcoming Activities at the American Italian Heritage Museum
1227 Central Ave, Albany, NY 12205
http://www.americanitalianmuseum.org

Tuesday, March 8, 11:00 am
Italian Easter Baking Class - The Instructor is Dolores Scalise. She will make an entrée and dessert that will be a great touch to your Easter Dinner. The cost is $10 and you have an opportunity to try the food prepared. Seating is limited, please make your reservation by March 1st

Facing the Global Immigration and Refugee Crisis
Thursday, March 17th
1-2:30 p.m.

Rockefeller Institute of Government
411 State Street

Keynoting the presentation will be Maher Nasser, director of the Outreach Division for the United Nations’ Department of Public Information (DPI). Mr. Nasser as more than 28 years of work experience in the United Nations during which he has worked in various capacities in Gaza, Jerusalem, Amman, Cairo, Vienna, and New York. Mr. Nasser became director of DPI’s Outreach Division in February 2011. Mr. Nasser first joined DPI in January 2006 as director of the UN Information Centre in Cairo. Before joining DPI, Mr. Nasser worked in various positions with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Gaza, Jerusalem, Vienna, Amman, and New York and with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna. After graduating as a civil engineer from Bir Zeit University near Ramallah in 1986, Mr. Nasser worked with two Jerusalem-based NGOs focusing on development and human rights. Mr. Nasser also attended the Middle East Peace Conference in Madrid in October 1991 and the subsequent bilateral negotiations in Washington, DC, as the personal assistant to Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafti, the head of the Palestinian Negotiating Team.

Panelists additionally participating include:

• Jill Peckenpaugh, director, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants,
Albany Field Office

- Sana Mustafa, Bard College Student and Syrian Refugee

To register, contact Michele Charbonneau at michele.charbonneau@rockinst.suny.edu or by calling (518) 443-5258. Parking is free to all those registered.

This program is part of Albany Pro Musica’s City of Immigrants, sponsored by Bank of America. This special concert and event series explores the cultural heritage of our Capital Region.

For more information about the series, please visit albanypromusica.org.

(PRINT FOR DETAILS)

A Quote Worth Noting...

“A man’s country is not a certain area of land, of mountains, rivers, and woods, but it is a principle; and patriotism is loyalty to that principle.”

George William Curtis