



# ICRCC

India Community Religious & Cultural Center Inc.

Spring 2013

## ICRCC Board

Pardeep Zirath  
*President*

Joe Kappil  
*Vice President*

Ashvin Shah  
*Secretary*

Hemant Kale  
*Treasurer*

Ramana Adavikolanu  
*Web Administrator*

Sapna Kollali  
*Newsletter Editor*

Ramesh Gaonkar  
Mani Kanika Gauri  
Kishor Kanabar  
Kajal Kapoor  
Rama Mehrotra  
N.V.Suryanarayana  
Abraham Thomas

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*Founded in 1984 to unite and serve the Indian community of Central New York*

## Greetings from the Board President

**G**reetings, ladies and gentlemen. The gloomy olds of winter are almost over. Spring is in the air and longer and warmer days are ahead. I have been on the board for three years now. It has been an enjoyable and educational experience so far. I am deeply honored to serve as ICRCC president for 2013. I'll work to the best of my ability to serve the board and our community overall.

It is with a great pleasure that I announce two new additions to our board: Sapna Kollali and Mani Kanika Gauri. *(Learn more about our board members inside.)* Thank you to Ramesh for his continued leadership and service, even while

on a teaching assignment in India. I would also like to thank Sonal for her dedication and unconditional support.

Thanks to our board members for their service to the community. Despite their busy lives and schedule, they chose to serve the community with passion and dedication. With the support of our board members and community, we had several successful events last year, and this year is no exception. Preparations for the "Holi Program" and "Spring Festival" are in full swing, but the board can't pull it off by itself. We need the community support. It is community

that makes the difference. Please get involved and donate some time in carrying out the tasks when a request is made.

Additionally, the board has taken an initiative to update the ICRCC directory. The plan is to release it at our annual "Diwali" function. Please ensure that we have correct information, including your email address and phone number, so we can communicate with you and update you about recent happenings.

Sincerely,  
Pardeep Zirath

## Thanks for a Great Holi Celebration!

ICRCC had a great Holi festival on April 6. Dozens of community members spent the afternoon dancing and mingling with friends. Everyone enjoyed a delicious buffet from Star of India. Thanks, everyone, for a great event!



## Meet Our Leadership Team

**P**ardeep Zirath has been on the ICRC board since 2008 and currently serves as President. He works as a system engineer at Lockheed Martin. He lives in Syracuse with his wife Rachna, daughters Richa and Shruti, and his mother.

**J**oseph Kappil is in his 10<sup>th</sup> year as an ICRC board member, currently serving as Vice President. He is a real estate broker and an underwriter for a major health care provider. He also serves on the board and is a past president of the Syracuse Kerala Association and serves as the secretary of Syracuse St. Thomas Orthodox Church. Joseph volunteers with the Education Management and Fair Housing Cultural Diversity Committees of the NYS Association of Realtors. He lives in Clay with his wife, Beena, and their children, Jubi, Julie and Jerry.

**A**shvin Shah served on the board for several years in the 1990s and returned to the ICRC board in 2011, currently serving as Secretary. He is a retired civil engineer and worked at Niagara Mohawk for 14 years. He previously worked at Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Plant in Oswego and has also worked in Iowa and Pennsylvania. He previously volunteered with AARP as a tax aide and a driver for senior citizens. He lives in Baldwinsville with his wife, Sushila, and they have two daughters, Priti and Shefali.

**H**emant Kale joined the board in 2012 as secretary and currently serves as treasurer. He is a retired HVAC engineer who worked for various corporations in the Syracuse area and elsewhere, including 15 years in Chicago. He lives in Manlius.

**R**amesh Gaonkar is the ICRC immediate past president, having served for two years. He previously served as vice president and is a longtime board member. He is a professor emeritus of Electrical Engineering

Technology at SUNY OCC and is a visiting professor at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) – Gandhinagar. He and his wife, Shaila Wood, have two daughters, Nelima and Vanita.

**A**braham Thomas has been an ICRC board member for 13 years and is a former president. He is a Licensed Realtor Associate and is associated with Coldwell Banker Prime Properties. He lives in Syracuse with his wife, Molly, and daughters Priya and Ashley.

**M**ani Kanika Gauri joined the ICRC board in January. She is an I.T. Security Manager on Syracuse University's Central IT Team. She lives in Jamesville with her husband, Dinesh, and children Hemali and Praket.

**R**amana Adavikolanu has been an ICRC board member since 2005 and is a former vice president. He currently manages the ICRC website, handles email communications and coordinates cultural programs. He works as a Technical Infrastructure Architect/Designer for a major health insurance company. Ramana also is founding member of Syracuse Sadhana and is actively associated with their activities. He lives in East Syracuse with his wife, Bhagi, daughters Samhitha and Trisha.

**K**ishor Kanabar has been a board member for the last four years. He previously worked as an electrical engineer in India, Bhutan and Mozambique, and has owned and operated a Mobil gas station, car wash and convenience store since 1992. He is an active member of BAPS Swaminarayan Temple in Syracuse. He and his wife have two sons, Anad and Mishal.

**S**apna Kollali joined the board in January as the Newsletter Editor. She is the public relations officer for Madison-Oneida BOCES in Verona and previously worked as a reporter for

The Post-Standard newspaper. She has taught news writing at Syracuse University and is a past president of the Asian America Journalists Association-Upstate NY Chapter. Sapna is also an alumni mentor through SU's FullCircle Mentoring Program, a volunteer judge for SkillsUSA and a planning committee member for the statewide BOCES internal campaign. She lives in Syracuse with her husband, Kevin Tampone, and daughter, Leela.

**N**arasipur Suryanarayana has been on the ICRC board since 2003, including terms as President and Vice President. He retired in 2002 after a career as a faculty member in the Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics Department at Michigan Technological University. He is a fellow with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and a life member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). In Syracuse, he is a volunteer tax preparer for low-income residents through P.E.A.C.E. He and his wife, Pramila, have two children, Sriram and Shalini, and two granddaughters, Sonia and Alexis.

**K**ajal Kapoor joined the ICRC board in 2012. She is a software engineer at CxTec Corporation. She lives in Liverpool with her husband, Nitin Kapoor.

**R**ama Mehrotra is serving her fourth year as an ICRC board member and she is a former president. She is a software engineer working in Rome and is a Syracuse University alumna. She lives in DeWitt with her husband, Kishan, who has also served several terms on the ICRC board. They have two children, Ateev and Manjaree.

## BAPS Hosts Health Fair and Bone Marrow Registry Event

**B**APS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Syracuse held a Health Fair on March 30 to help educate area residents about common health issues, such as diabetes, high cholesterol, obesity, anemia and skin, eye and dental issues. Services were provided by BAPS Medical Services.

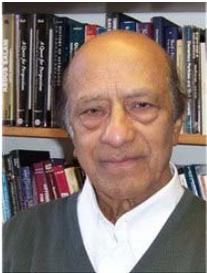


Participants received blood work results on site and health awareness counseling, as well as attend a health education lecture.

*Photos from the 2012 Health Fair*

The event also included a bone marrow registry event to screen and enroll volunteers in the national Be The Match Registry. Anyone who missed the event but is interested in the bone marrow registry can visit [www.bethematchfoundation.org](http://www.bethematchfoundation.org) or contact Michael Garbin at [mgarbin@nmdp.org](mailto:mgarbin@nmdp.org) or 585-472-4715.

### Wali Lecture Features Talk on Dalai Lama



This year's annual Kameshwar C. Wali Lecture in the Sciences and Humanities featured a March 26 presentation by physicist Arthur Zajonc on "Conversing with the Dalai Lama: 25 Years of Dialogue with Science."

Zajonc, a physics professor emeritus at Amherst College, has done extensive research in the relationship between the sciences, the humanities and meditation, and he is the scientific coordinator for the Mind and Life dialogue with the Dalai Lama.

The lecture series was established in honor of Wali, a distinguished research professor emeritus in the Syracuse University Physics Department, by his three daughters. Wali is internationally recognized for his scholarship in the symmetry properties of fundamental particles and their interactions, and for his work on the physics of music.

### Gupta Speaks to Syracuse Sadhana



The Syracuse Sadhana organized a visit to Central New York by renowned speaker Acharya Vivek Gupta on March 9 at the United Church of Fayetteville. Gupta spoke about "Surrendering Fear Forever."

The visit was part of a series of talks, classes and camps he has been asked to lead across North America in which he makes the ancient wisdom of Vedanta relevant, reachable and applicable to all.

Gupta is a graduate of the Chinmaya Mission's Sandeepany Sadhanalaya in Mumbai, India, and has extensively studied the Upanishads, Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, Ramacharitamana, Sanskrit, Vedic chanting, and much more.

### Upcoming Events

**May 8**—Monthly ICRCC Board Meeting

**June 1**—Spring Festival, 2:30 p.m. at Lincoln Middle School in Syracuse

We are planning our annual *Diwali Celebration* this fall. Stay tuned for more details!

### Kerala Association Hosts Ice Skating Event



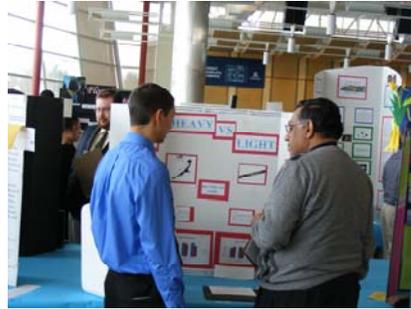
The Syracuse Kerala Association held a family ice skating event on February 16 at the Cicero Ice Rink. About 20 adults and children attended the event and had the opportunity to meet new friends from the community.

## Members Help Judge Regional Science Fair



Several members of ICRCC served as judges in this year's Central New York Science and Engineering Fair on March 24 at Onondaga Community College. The event showcased projects by 220 students from Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego counties. Participants ranged in age from fourth grade to high school students.

ICRCC judges included: Ramesh Gaonkar, Ashvin Shah, Pramod Varshney, Anju Varshney, Dr. Shalabh Maroo, Dr. Kumar Ashutosh and Dr. Sabita Ashutosh. Gaonkar has been an organizer and member of the Operational Committee of the CNY Science and Engineering Fair for the past five years.



## Yoga Institute Presents Classical Music Performance



The Upstate Yoga Institute will present a free performance of Classical Indian Veena Music, featuring Geetha Ramanathan Bennett, an internationally renowned musicologist, scholar and veena player. She has been awarded the highest rank of veena performance by All India Radio/TV for the past 10 years.

The program, "Sounds of India," will be held on April 13 at 3 p.m. at the Institute, 6843 East Genesee St., DeWitt, and is open to the public.

## Submit Your Information for the Member Directory

**A**n ICRCC board subcommittee is currently collecting information from all community members to publish a Membership Directory. This directory will help improve communication between the community members and help them connect with others that have common interests.

A form is available at [www.icrcc.org](http://www.icrcc.org), under "Newsletters." The form may be completed electronically and emailed to [gaonkar.ramesh@gmail.com](mailto:gaonkar.ramesh@gmail.com).

## Become a member of ICRCC!

Membership is \$30 per person or \$50 per family.

Applications and mailing address can be found online at [www.icrcc.org](http://www.icrcc.org).

## Goodbye to the Shahs

Ramesh Shah, pharmacist, and his wife Kokila, long time community members, moved to Florida at the end of 2012.

Do you have news about the Indian community in Central New York? Share it in the ICRCC newsletter! Send an email to [smkollal@hotmail.com](mailto:smkollal@hotmail.com).