



INDIA COMMUNITY RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL CENTER, INC. (ICRCC)

A non-profit organization founded in 1984
1990 Meadowbrook Dr. Syracuse, NY 13224

www.icrcc.org

<http://www.facebook.com/ICRCC>

Email: icrccpresident@gmail.com



What's in this issue?

1. President's Message
2. Greetings from the Editor
3. ICRCC Membership and Contact Info
4. ICRCC Building update
5. Recent Community Events
6. Upcoming Community News & Events
7. List of Permanent Members

Upcoming ICRCC Events Summary:

Date	Event	Place	Contact	Additional Notes
Every Friday 7:00pm	Indian Music events	India Center	mohan@syr.edu frvora@yahoo.com	Karaoke, Antakshari, Local musicians (live), Poetry recitations
January 4	Yoga	India Center	Sanjeev Kumar icrccpresident@gmail.com	Every Saturday 10 am. See details inside.
March	Holi	TBA	Sanjeev Kumar icrccpresident@gmail.com	
April 26	Ramanujan Centennial Tribute	India Center	mehrotra@syr.edu	
May 16	Annual Spring Festival	TBA	TBA	

Information on events is listed on our website, at <http://www.icrcc.org/eventlist>

President's Message

Fellow community members,

Due to the support of so many community members, the ICRCC officially became the owner of 1990 Meadowbrook Drive, which is now our new home as of Monday July 1st, 2019. On July 28th, we hosted our first open house for the community. After months of operations, we have hosted many events by the members of the community.

Compared to one year ago, the ICRCC is now a vastly different organization with the acquisition of this building. As we move forward, we will work to budget and earn a zero percent loss on majority of our events in the future. We will also encourage everyone to use this space.

With reasonable notice, we will need to conduct another Special Meeting to discuss possible increase in membership dues. With the acquisition of this building, we will need input from this community more than ever.

ICRCC held the annual General Body Meeting (GBM) on November 16th, 2019, which was very well attended. Two new Board members were sworn in and others renewed their terms. Following the GBM, the Board members met, and elected the new Executive committee for 2020. The board elected Jayant Datta as treasurer, Hemant Kale as Secretary, Falguni Vora as Vice President, and Sanjeev Kumar as President. We are looking for nominations for a vacant board position.

With many aspirations for 2020, I am excited to work with the community to continue and promote programs that recognize our diverse culture. Thank you everyone for all the support!

Best Regards.
Sanjeev Kumar
President



**1990 Meadowbrook Drive
Syracuse, NY 13224**

Greetings from the Editor

Namaste

We just finished an eventful year, with the acquisition of our new permanent home at 1990 Meadowbrook Drive. Since the center was inaugurated, we have had multifaceted events, and the community has come together to participate enthusiastically. We now look forward to more exciting ventures in 2020.

Please feel free to write to us about what programs interest you and would benefit the community.

I would also request all members to renew their yearly membership if they haven't already done so. Now is the right time to get the maximum benefit out of your membership. Yearly membership is active during the ICRCC financial year from first day of October and ends on the last day of September. So, if you become a member during midyear, your membership would last only till the end of September. See additional details below, on membership renewal. Majority of our members renew their membership during annual Diwali dinner, so please renew in case you missed the Diwali celebrations.

We welcome all newcomers to our town. Please reach out to us for any help needed in settling down.

Yours

Shridevi Karikehalli

shridilip@hotmail.com



ICRCC is looking for volunteers to help operate and maintain the recently acquired center at 1990 Meadowbrook Drive.

Currently the ICRCC Board members and their families are tirelessly working in setting up the center to facilitate the much-anticipated community events. Please help us in any form you can.

High school students may be able to fulfill their community service hours requirements by helping at ICRCC, as this is a not-for-profit organization.

Please contact us at icrccpresident@gmail.com.

ICRCC Membership

- Regular Yearly Membership, Family: \$50. Single: \$30
- Permanent Membership, Family: \$1000. Single: \$750.

The yearly membership is active from first day of October and ends on the last day of September, in keeping with the financial year of the ICRCC.

Preferred method of payment online: www.icrcc.org. Click on "BECOME MEMBER"
OR mail a check to:

ICRCC, 1990 Meadowbrook Drive, Syracuse, NY 13224.

If you have any questions, please contact the membership committee:

Shridevi Karikehalli (Coordinator): (shridilip@hotmail.com)

Falguni Vora: (frvora@yahoo.com)

ICRCC is a Not-for-Profit Corporation under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donations and contributions to the Permanent Member Fund may be tax deductible. Kindly check with your tax advisor.

Connect With us:

By email at icrccpresident@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ICRCC/>

Written Material can be mailed to:

**ICRCC
1990 Meadowbrook Drive
Syracuse, NY 13224**

India Center Building Updates

Submitted by Jayant Datta

It is my understanding that the founding fathers of ICRCC had envisioned a building that they could call their own – a central gathering place that would provide an opportunity to advance our religious, cultural and social heritage.

Fast forward about 35 years – their dreams came true in the middle of 2019 when a building (India Center) was purchased at 1990 Meadowbrook Dr, Syracuse, NY 13224 – our new home – YOUR new home!

The foresight of the early ICRCC members and leadership laid the solid (financial) foundation that made such a purchase possible. Over the last two decades, donations coupled with prudent investments resulted in a Building Acquisition fund contributing \$171,010 towards the \$246,390 total purchase price.

Generous donations from the community during 2019 contributed an additional \$92,490 – of this \$75,380 went towards purchasing the building, \$14,000 was earmarked for immediate building-related improvements and the balance is for future use.

2019 also saw the addition of 19 new permanent members, showing strong support for the future of the organization.

India Center is being used by members and non-members for a number of events (public and private), including a music night every Thursday at 7 pm. We look forward to your creative suggestions on how we can better utilize the space to reach out to the larger community of Greater Syracuse.

Let's put OUR new home to good use!

India Center Building Utilization Information

India Center is available for private gatherings and parties. It has a large banquet style hall, excellent audiovisual facilities, and fully equipped kitchen. Smaller rooms, one with a large display are also available for meetings / group discussions / classes. There is ample parking space.

Please contact Sunil Gupta for booking and other information 315-727-0445, or sunil4911@gmail.com

Recent ICRCC Events

Please visit ICRCC website and Facebook page for photos & videos of recent events.

India Day Picnic

Submitted by: Falguni Vora

Yet another year when ICRCC celebrated India Day to mark the Independence Day of India. The celebration took place at Pratts Falls Recreation Park in Manlius on August 11th, 3:00 PM onwards. A huge pavilion rented by ICRCC looked beautiful with orange, green and white balloons. Indian & American flags hoisting in the air added to the spirit. More than 80 people attended the event and enjoyed the activities catered for all age groups. The community members brought in many of their favorite dishes to share with the rest. Corn and Watermelon was sponsored by ICRCC. Monetary donations to support the event was also received.

Soor Vora beautifully rendered the American and the Indian National Anthem; and the community members joined him. The highlight of the event was the magician who kept the kids as well as adults captivated and astonished with his baffling magic tricks. There was a lot of hustle and bustle with food being served / assembled, corn being grilled, people chatting and playing Antakshari, kids playing cricket & volleyball and much more.

All in all, with hard work of the board members and great participation and enthusiasm by community, the India Day celebration was a big success



Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birthday Celebration

Submitted by: Chilukuri Mohan

At the India Center in Syracuse, ICRCC celebrated the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth on October 2nd, 1869, in Porbandar (Gujarat). Disha Manocha organized and led the event, with a visual presentation. Mahatma Gandhi's favorite prayers and bhajans were sung by Falguni Vora and Rachna Zirath. Short speeches, discussing Mahatma Gandhi's life, were given by Kumar Ashutosh and Kishan Mehrotra, as well as by Kavya Arasu representing children from our community. The audience of about fifty people was enthralled to learn that Dr. Ashutosh (in his childhood) had seen Mahatma Gandhi at an event.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, known to us as Mahatma Gandhi, or Gandhiji, or Bapuji (Father), was educated in England and practiced law in South Africa where he worked to defend the local Indian community, before returning to India and working with the Indian National Congress, leading a non-violent non-cooperation movement that culminated in the British surrendering power to a newly formed Indian government. He is renowned and respected all over the world for demonstrating the power of putting high moral principles into action. His wife Kasturba Gandhi was also an active participant in his efforts, e.g., taking his place in *Satyagraha* agitations when he was in jail. He was steadfast in his advocacy of non-violent struggles, treating opponents with respect and fairness, often prevailing over the objections of many Indian supporters, and eventually resulting in his assassination in 1948.

Mahatma Gandhi has been attacked by people from the extreme left and right, who focus on a few specific aspects of his life or writing, or attribute Indian independence to British weakness following World War II rather than the Indian struggle for independence. He must be understood in terms of the entirety of his life and achievements, including changes that occurred in his perspectives over time and in response to external events and the opinions of others. *Ahimsa* (non-violence) and *Satya* (truth) were the cornerstones of his philosophy but can also be viewed as practical tools used effectively to oppose authorities who were equipped with overwhelming physical (police and military) power. Unlike violent activities (e.g., bomb-throwing), non-cooperation (e.g., non-payment of taxes) was an approach that could not be met by brutal force for too long, since the latter would militate against the stated principles of the British government and would be disagreeable to their own public. In the pursuit of this approach, tremendous discipline was required: even minor violent incidents could have been used by the British government as excuses to crush the movement. In addition, Mahatma Gandhi called for a unified opposition from all Indians, including all religions and castes, whereas the British government relied mostly on the support of the minority of wealthy and powerful members of Indian society, from which arose intellectuals and leaders who worked with Mahatma Gandhi's movement.

Many other efforts owe their success to Mahatma Gandhi, who worked on them with other leaders. The *Swadeshi* movement led to mass boycotts, affecting the British textile industry, while popularizing the spinning wheel (*charkha*) and handspun cloth (*khadi*). The emphasis on self-reliance is important for economic as well as socio-psychological reasons, such as self-respect, self-esteem, and belonging, with a visible tangible proof of unity among multitudes. Bringing downtrodden folks into the mainstream added great strength in numbers to the political movement, in addition to adding a moral element that could not be ignored by intellectuals, despite the opposition of entrenched forces supporting the *status quo* in Indian society. Identification with the ordinary people of India through his choice of clothes endeared

Mahatma Gandhi to the masses, setting him apart from other political leaders whose daily habits resembled those of the British rulers; in any difference of opinion among the leaders, there was never any doubt regarding who would have the greatest support from the millions of people in India.

Many decades ago, my grandmother remarked to me that Mahatma Gandhi was vilified unjustly by some people (she was referring to the men in the family) even though he was a very good person. This is an apt summary: in the minds of many (oft-silent) people, Mahatma Gandhi personified goodness, rather than self-interest or the interest of a specific community. If he lived today, would he be arrested for sedition?



Diwali

This year again the Indian community came together and celebrated the Diwali festival with great enthusiasm. As is always, the board members and volunteers worked tirelessly to put the program together. The program was held on Saturday, November 2nd at the Holiday Inn Liverpool, NY.

Sailaja Sishtla and Surabhi Raina very tastefully decorated the halls and created the festive Diwali mood with beautiful lamps and other decorations. With an entertaining Master of Ceremony, Dr. Kaushal Nanavati, we had an incredible performance from the Bhangra Group of SUNY University at Buffalo as well as a traditional Indian dance performed and organized by Seema Sureshkumar and her team member. We thank both groups for their captivating performances. With the energy exuded from these dance programs, the audience danced on for the rest of the night to the Bollywood music played by the DJ.

Our chief guest was NYS Senator Rachel May's Chief of Staff Mr. Zach Zelif. Mr. Zelif was encouraged to see the work we do for the Indian community.



ICRCC Christmas Celebrations 2019

Submitted by: Beena Kappil, Coordinator

We organized the Christmas celebration on December 22, 2019 Sunday at 4.00 PM. We had very good response from our community members, with the preparations, for the event, decorating the tree, arranging music, singing Christmas Carols and last but not least- bringing in a variety of food items to share with fellow community members. The food and sweets were from different parts of world and from different regions in India!

The main speaker was Pastor Suresh Thyagarajan of International Church in Syracuse. The program included singing Christmas songs by Pastor Lowell Weeks, Dr. Lakshmi Kavety, ICRCC members, picture taking with Santa and serving refreshments.

The message of Christmas is about sharing 'Joy, Peace and Happiness'. The children and other participants enjoyed this festive occasion.

I would like to thank all the board members and our community for their support during this very busy season. I would like to mention few people for their support: Jayant Datta, Sanjeev Kumar, Disha Manocha, Shridevi Karikhehalli, Sonal Khanna - being the MC, Jayesh Patil as Santa Claus and everyone for bringing food for sharing.

We wish you Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year.





Christmas Celebrations 2019

Community Activities

1. Music Evenings



When: Every Friday 7:00 pm

Where: India Center

Who to contact: Falguni Vora (frvora@yahoo.com), Chilukuri Mohan (mohan@syr.edu)

Details: Our Center will be a place where we can come to relax and spend time with friends, enjoying Indian music in various ways. So far, we've had two Bollywood Karaoke days, with hidden talents of community members receiving applause and recognition. We've also held a Bollywood Fitness class, taught by Disha Manocha. In addition to Karaoke, other expected activities—planned or impromptu—include poetry readings, Antakshari, jam sessions, regional language music, evenings focused on a specific singer/actor/lyricist/musician, live instrument playing, and mini-classes on music basics.

2. Yoga Program



When: Every Saturday 10:00 am

Where: India Center

Who to contact: Sanjeev Kumar (icrccpresident@gmail.com)

Details: First class held on Jan. 4th, 2020 at 10:00 am. It will be an hour-long session, to be held every Saturday at 10:00am, open to all levels. It will be free for members whereas non-members will pay \$10 per class or \$25 per month. Classes will be conducted by Vibha Chandrasekhar, who holds Yoga Alliance certificate. ICRCC will be asking participants to agree and sign waiver of liability form before attending the classes.

3. Jnana Mandir



When: Twice a month

Where: India Center

Who to contact: Bala Murthy (jnanamandir101@gmail.com)

Details: Spiritual, philosophical and religious programs, including Balvihar. Jnana Mandir would highly appreciate enrollment of volunteers to help run the program.

4. SPICMACAY Concert

When: March 29

Who to contact: spicmacay.su@gmail.com

Details: Odissi dance performance by Akari Ueoka- guest artist from Hawaii

Please contact icrccpresident@gmail.com, for inclusion of any Community News and Events in the ICRCC Newsletter for circulation.

ICRCC Friday Music Events

Submitted by: Chilukuri Mohan

Music brings us together. Literally. In the India Center, on **Friday evenings** (at 7PM), organized by Falguni Vora, Jayant Datta, and yours truly.

For the past two months, we have been meeting regularly to enjoy the music that many of us like, even though we all hail from different parts of India. We have been making use of a great audio system and auditorium environment, thanks to volunteers such as Jayant Datta, Sunil Gupta, Hemant Kale, Kishan Mehrotra, and Sanjeev Kumar.

So far, we have been focused mostly on Karaoke-style singing of Hindi (Bollywood) songs from the past eight decades, with a smattering of Ghazals, poetry reading, and topical jokes. In the future, I hope that we could have music evenings dedicated to other languages, e.g., an evening each of music in Gujarati, Bangla, Telugu, etc. Another evening could be devoted to poetry recital, by community members. Another evening could focus on a style of singing, or a singer, or a music director—not necessarily all Bollywood. What we do depends on who shows up and what we'd like to do.

Please join us: no RSVP necessary. None of us are professionals, we are all there to have fun, and have already uncovered hidden talents in many community members. An hour and half of enjoyment in the company of friends leaves us in good moods, and we find ourselves eagerly waiting for the next Friday. If you and a few friends would like to arrange for an evening focused on a specific language or singer or singing style, please let me know!



Save The Date

April 26, 2020

Centennial Memorial Tribute for renowned mathematician
Srinivasa Ramanujan



Contact: Kishan Mehrotra (mehrotra@syr.edu)

ICRCC Board Members (2019-2020):

The annual GBM was held on November 16, 2019. The following members were elected and or reelected. ICRCC is still in the process of forming different committees for 2020.

Executive Board Members:

Sanjeev Kumar, skumar@oswego.edu (President)
Falguni Vora, frvora@yahoo.com (Vice-President)
Jayant Datta, Jayant_datta@hotmail.com (Treasurer)
Hemant Kale, hkale@twcnny.rr.com (Secretary)

Board Members:

Sunil Gupta, sunil4911@gmail.com
Chandan Jha, chandangipe@gmail.com
Beena Kappil, bjkappil@yahoo.com
Shridevi Karikhehalli, shridilip@hotmail.com
Dayaprasad Kulkarni, drdayaprasad99@gmail.com
Disha Manocha, dishamanocha@yahoo.com
Kishan Mehrotra, mehrotra@syr.edu
Bala Murthy, vidyubala@yahoo.com
Surabhi Raina, sraina@syr.edu
Rachna Zirath, rachnazirath@gmail.com

Finance Committee: Jayant Datta (Chair), Sunil Gupta, Hemant Kale

Membership Committee: Shridevi Karikhehalli, Falguni Vora

Bylaws Review Committee:

Nominations Committee: Ramesh Gaonkar (external)

Communication & Marketing: Disha Manocha

Building Committee: Sunil Gupta, Kishan Mehrotra, Jayant Datta, Dayaprasad Kulkarni

Newsletter: Shridevi Karikhehalli (Editor)

Website: Sunil Gupta

Connect With us:

By email at icccpresident@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ICRCC/>

Written Material can be mailed to:

ICRCC
1990 Meadowbrook Drive
Syracuse, NY 13224



Diwali 2019. Thanks to our 2018-2019 Board Members. Missing some in the photo.



ICRCC Board at GBM 2019