



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

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

www.icrcc.org | www.facebook.com/ICRCC | email: shridevi@icrcc.org

Summer 2024 [updated]

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Upcoming ICRCC Events Summary:

Event	Date	Place	Contact	Additional Notes
Independence Day	17-Aug-2024	Onondaga Lake	Surabhi Raina	See details here
Bollywood program	01-Sep-2024	Palace Theatre	Shridevi Karikhehalli	See details here
Diwali	16-Nov-2024	Oncenter	Sunil Gupta	

President's message

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from ICRCC!

It's been some time since our last newsletter in December, but we have been in touch through numerous events organized by ICRCC and in collaboration with other partners. I want to thank my dedicated Board of Directors and the incredible support from our community, which has made these programs highly successful. Please enjoy the detailed reports and colorful photographs featured in this newsletter, showcasing our recent events. We hope to continue bringing these programs year after year, and we can add additional programs you recommend.

This year, as we celebrate our 40th anniversary, we are thrilled to present an exciting Bollywood music and dance extravaganza by Niche Entertainment on September 1st, at Palace Theatre. More information can be found in the enclosed flyer. We recently enjoyed a memorable Carnatic Music concert by the renowned Dr. Gayathri Girish. There are many more exciting events planned in the months ahead. Stay updated by subscribing to our newsletter.

There are many ways to support this vibrant organization, and becoming a member is one of them. Membership fees are nominal and offer many benefits including reduced prices for all ticketed events. Please see details regarding ICRCC membership in this newsletter.

We are proud to celebrate the achievements of all our graduating students who have shown dedication in reaching their academic goals and pursuing their dreams. Congratulations to all!

As always, we value your input and welcome any ideas you have to enhance our organization or introduce new programs. Please stay connected with us.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer!

Shridevi Karikehalli

President ICRCC

shridevi@icrcc.org

Membership Information

by Chaitanya Halbe

A big “Thank You” to all our permanent members, as well as our 2024 members!

If you are not yet a member of ICRCC, we strongly urge you to sign up and enjoy membership benefits.

Key Membership Benefits:

- Discounts to events catering to various age groups and representing the cultural diversity of India
- Opportunity to be a part of a close-knit group and forming strong friendship and network
- Attend the General Body Meeting and voice your opinion on the events or policies of the organization
- Eligibility to join the Board of Directors, thereby taking an active role in shaping the organization

Our members’ participation is the key component of ICRCC. We seek your active involvement to further improve the organization. So, please become a member and ask your friends and colleagues to do the same!

ICRCC Membership

- Regular Yearly Membership: Family = \$75, Single = \$50
- Permanent Membership: Family = \$1500, Single = \$1000

Payment options:

- Online: icrcc.org (preferred)
- Mail: ICRCC, 1990 Meadowbrook Drive, Syracuse, NY 13224

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

Chaitanya Halbe: chaithalbe@gmail.com

Jayant Narang: jnarang@gmail.com

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

Update on ICRCC Events

Christmas

by Shridevi Karikehalli



It was a joyous Christmas celebration at ICRCC. The festivities began with children singing melodious Christmas carols and showcasing beautifully choreographed dances. An interactive musical session kept everyone engaged. The Manger scene was beautifully enacted by the children, capturing the essence of the season.

The cultural program was followed by the arrival of Santa Claus with his jingling bells and hearty laughter. Children enjoyed their treats and had fun getting photographed with the beautifully decorated Christmas tree.

Many sweet and savory treats were enjoyed by all, adding to the festive atmosphere. True to holiday spirit, the community came together to collect numerous new toys, which were generously donated to the Golisano Children's Hospital. Additionally, 105 lbs. of nonperishable food was collected and donated to the Food Bank of CNY, in the spirit of giving and compassion.

Overall, it was a truly memorable and enjoyable celebration, filled with gratitude and festive cheer.



Republic Day

by Chaitanya Halbe

India celebrated the 75th year of Republic Day on January 26, 2024. To commemorate this special occasion, ICRCC organized a cultural program on Saturday, January 27th, that vividly displayed India's rich cultural diversity as well as vibrant democracy.

The program began at 3 PM, with spirited singing of the Indian and American National Anthems by a group of young children from Jnana Mandir. This was performed with the backdrop of flags from both nations. This was followed by a moving rendition of the patriotic song "Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon" by Dr. Lakshmi Kavety. The final program in the event was a fun-filled Republic Day quiz, created by Shalabh Maroo. The quiz followed the format of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?". Kids, as well as adults, enthusiastically participated in the quiz and tested their knowledge about India.

Everyone enjoyed light snacks at the end of the program. The program was well-attended and received positive feedback from the community.

General Body Meeting

by Kishan Mehrotra

ICRCC's annual General Body Meeting (GBM) was held on February 24, 2024 at the India Center, from 3:00 to 4:00 PM. ICRCC President Shridevi started the meeting with a brief welcome message. She welcomed the attendees, thanked the board and community for their support throughout the year and made a key observation that this year we will celebrate the 40th year anniversary of ICRCC.

ICRCC Secretary (Kishan Mehrotra) gave an overview of the events held during 2023. He informed that ICRCC had organized 11 well attended programs. Kishan, as chair of the Building Committee, talked about building improvements, future improvements required, and usage of the building for parties and other personal celebrations. He informed that this year's key improvements were (1) The entire downstairs was painted and (2) installation of a new lift, possible due to a grant from Central New York Community Foundation.

Shridevi also informed us that we have received some grant money for cultural programs for 2024. Jayant Datta, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented his report; compared revenues and expenses for 2022 and 2023; and informed that financially 2023 was a better year than prior years.

Other items discussed in the meeting consisted of approval of the Bylaws and election of new Board members. Outgoing Board members, Uday Banerjee and Falguni Vora, will be missed and we welcome Jayant Narang; one board position remains vacant and we seek volunteers.

Holi

by Ashok Shantilal Sangani



The popular Indian festival of colors, Holi, was celebrated by more than 130 members and non-members at the ICRCC Center on March 30.

The program started at 4 pm with the participants dancing to the tunes of Bollywood Holi songs.

This was followed by a cultural (dance/music) program performed by a group of very talented Indian students from Syracuse University. Dinner, prepared by volunteers, followed.



At dusk, the participants moved to the Center Parking lot where a fire was lit, and everyone enjoyed playing with colors and dancing again with Holi songs.

International Taste Festival

by Sunil Gupta

The 3rd Annual International Taste Festival was held on April 6, 2024 at The New York State Fairgrounds. ICRCC members served various snack items at our food booth, where we experienced a steady stream of customers, and sold out all the items we offered. The best selling items were Mango Lassi, Samosa, Chaat, Bhel Puri and Pakoras.

We also organized an hour-long cultural program that included a variety of performances from our local community members. It was a good opportunity to showcase our local talent to the entire CNY community. ICRCC thanks all the volunteers, many of whom had spent countless hours to make this event successful.

Gayathri Girish concert

by Chilukuri K. Mohanl

ICRCC organized a wonderful Carnatic music concert by vocalist Gayathri Girish, violinist M. Vijay, and percussionist Kumbakonam Swaminathan on April 20, 2024, organized with the help of the Carnatic Music Association of North America, Inc.



Gayathri Girish began studying music at the age of 6 years under the guidance of her mother Padmini Srinivasan. She subsequently came under the tutelage of Vidwan Vaigal S.Gnanaskandan, and Padma Bhushan, Sangeetha Kalanidhi Madurai T.N.Seshagopalan. She had also studied Mathematics (Gold Medalist) and holds a postgraduate degree in Computer Applications (MCA). She is an “A-grade” artiste of All India Radio, Chennai and performs for various television channels. She serves on the artist panel for the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. She conducts globally acclaimed music workshops on diverse topics through her online platform "Chaitanyam". She has been honored with titles "Kalaimamani", "Isai Peroli", "Sangeetha

Bhaskara" and "Gaana Rathna", and she also received the prestigious "Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar" from Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2014.

M. Vijay studied with Smt. R. Vidhya, Sri. CA Rajasekar, and Sri S. Varadarajan. In 2006, he clinched the top position in the All India Radio competition for Violin. He has received the Lalgudi Sri. Gopala Iyer Endowment award; the Best Junior Violinist awards in 2015 from Sri. Parthasarathy Swami Sabha and in 2016 from The Music Academy, Madras; the Youth Excellence Award from Maharajapuram Viswanatha Iyer Trust in 2021; and the AG Ramaswamy Centennial Memorial Award for Best Violinist in 2023.

Kumbakonam Swaminathan received training from K.A. Nambiya Pillai, Vidwan N.V. Raghu, and P. S. Subramanian. His Awards & Titles include: Best Percussionist award - from Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, 2005; Best Mridangam Artiste award from Sri Parthasarathy Swamy Sabha, 2008; Aasthana Vidwan for Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Mutt, 2012; Best Percussionist Award from Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, 2012; "Yuvakalabharathi" –Bharath Kalachar, 2014 ; Yuva Sangeetha Kalajyothi" – Suswara Trust, Chennai Fine Arts, 2014; Maharajapuram Vsiwanatha Iyer Award, 2015; and Special prizes from Janaranjani, Tamil Isai Sangam, Karaikudi, and Rasika Ranjana Sabha, Trichy.

The concert included songs in different languages, in ragas by well-known composers, pleasing audiences with different backgrounds. The first song was "swami daya juDa", followed by "siddhi vinayakam", "inni daya aarade", "shobhillu saptaswara", "akhilandeshwari", "sharavana bhava samayamidi raa", "ennaallu uurake", "pibare ramarasam", "tirupati venkata ramana", "mangala murti", and "maitrim bhajata", finally concluding with Mangalam.

About 45 people attended the concert, and truly enjoyed the melodious singing as well as the expert violin and mridangam artistes.

Spring Festival

by Surabhi Raina and Jayshri Prasad



On Sunday, June 2, ICRCC organized the annual vibrant and culturally rich Spring Festival at Lincoln Middle School. The event featured a diverse array of performances, showcasing talents from the Indian community, with adults as well as children as young as five presenting a variety of acts that highlighted India's rich heritage.

The festival began with a heartwarming rendition of the Indian national song "Vande Mataram" by young children, setting a patriotic and festive tone. The audience was



then immersed in a series of classical dance performances, including Kuchipudi, Bharatanatyam, and Kathak, each dancer adorned in beautiful traditional attire. The colorful and intricate movements of these dances highlighted the depth and beauty of India's classical arts. In addition to the classical dances, lively Bollywood dance numbers added a modern and energetic flair to the festival. A notable highlight of the evening was the tabla recital performed by a talented group of musicians, captivating the audience with their rhythmic precision and artistry.

The Spring Festival was not just an entertainment event; it provided an opportunity for performers of all ages to showcase their skills and for the audience to experience the beauty and diversity of Indian culture. The ICRCC plans to continue this tradition, promising even more opportunities for cultural celebration and community engagement.

Following the cultural program, attendees had an opportunity to enjoy a variety of popular Indian snacks lovingly prepared and served by our fantastic team of volunteers. Some of the items served included bhel puri, dahi wada, samosa chaat, pakodaas, mango lassi, gulab jamun and cookies.

Overall, the festival was a success. It was truly an evening to remember, where India's diverse culture and cuisine were highlighted and celebrated!



Cricket

by Chaitanya Halbe



The T20 Cricket World Cup 2024 was held jointly in the United States and West Indies in June 2024. ICRCC organized a screening of one of the most anticipated games - India vs Pakistan on June 9, 2024.

The match was scheduled to start at 10:30 AM. Around 40 members from the community gathered at the India Center to watch the game on the big screen and cheer for the Indian team. The delay caused by rains on the ground did not dampen the enthusiasm of the audience. The tense ending of the game only added to the enjoyment. The victory of the Indian team was enthusiastically celebrated.

Everyone enjoyed light snacks, tea and lunch prepared by members of the community. The event received positive feedback from the attendees.



Hindi Day

by Kishan Mehrotra



On Saturday, July 20, 2024 we held a Hindi program called – *Ek saanjh Hindi ke saath*.

In the program several individuals actively participated by reciting poems written by them or by famous Hindi poets, stories, commentaries on famous novels and poetry, and observations on social issues.

Audience members actively participated and enjoyed guessing the names of poets who wrote famous couplets (such as those written by Kabir and Surdas) and by writing their own poems on a couple of lines that were provided to them.

All said, this cultural program was enjoyed and appreciated by all participants.

Everyone enjoyed snacks at the end of the program.



Community News

Congratulations to our Graduating Students!!!

Agniva Chaudhuri

Agniva is a graduate of Fayetteville-Manlius High School. He plans to attend University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, majoring in Electrical Engineering. He has been a part of the Chakraborty Lab at Syracuse University for the past 3 years and is a member of the FM boy's varsity tennis team. He loves animals of all sorts, whether they are fish, dogs, cats, or perhaps even deer. He also follows Indian politics, despite being ineligible to vote.

Arusha Ramaswamy

Arusha is graduating from Fayetteville-Manlius High school and attending SUNY Binghamton, planning to major in Neuroscience. Her noteworthy accomplishments include becoming a member of CNYMUN executive staff in the model UN club at her school, and taking part in Project Unloaded as a youth advisor and representative to help stop gun violence. She is a National merit scholarship finalist, and received the 'Best of Sno' award for journalism, and the Frederick Douglas and Susan B Anthony award for outstanding dedication to social justice. Her hobbies include reading classical literature and hanging out with her cats.

Anjali Mitra

Anjali is graduating from Fayetteville-Manlius High School and will be attending Syracuse University. She received the New York State Fair first place and best of show award, and is also a Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Key recipient and a National Honor Society member. Her hobbies include art and snowboarding.

Anusha Saxena

Anusha is graduating from Fayetteville-Manlius High School, and will be attending the University of Waterloo in Canada for Computer Engineering Honors. She has always enjoyed engineering, being a part of her school's robotics team and programming in her free time. She also loves Kathak dancing.

Daksh Maini

Daksh is graduating from Jamesville Dewitt High School and will be attending University of Buffalo, majoring in Biology. Daksh enjoys Track and Field, playing with puzzles, Legos and spending time with friends.

Jayanthan Karthikeyan

Jayanthan is graduating from Fayetteville Manlius High School, and will be attending the University of Buffalo for Biomedical Engineering studies. He has been the Content Director of CNYMUN 2024, President of History Bowl, and member of the National Honor Society and the Science Honor Society. He enjoys reading and learning history/geography, learning new languages, and studying philology. He loves playing violin in the Symphony and singing Carnatic Music.

Karunmay Aggarwal

Karunmay is graduating from Jamesville-Dewitt High School. He is planning to attend Brown University in Providence (Rhode Island), studying Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science. His noteworthy accomplishments include: 1st Place (2 years in a row) at Lockheed Martin CodeQuest Competition, more than 10 Gold medals at Science Olympiad, 9 Gold Medals & Highest Scorer at Academic Decathlon States. He has participated in research on quantum dots in computational chemistry, and has worked on turbulence-minimizing UAV prototypes at Syracuse University. His hobbies include playing video games, photography (also Astrophotography), and making fun robots.

Meghana Reddy

Meghana is graduating from Jamesville-Dewitt High School. She will be joining the University at Buffalo, majoring in Chemistry. She has also been accepted to Division One sports in Track and Field.

Nila Ganesh

Nila is graduating from Fayetteville-Manlius High School; she will be attending Cornell University, focusing on Government Studies, and planning to study International Relations and Law. She loves to sing and play piano.

Sankalp Gautam

Sankalp is graduating from the Fayetteville-Manlius High School. He will be attending Princeton University where he plans to major in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Sankalp's recent noteworthy accomplishments include National Merit Scholarship winner; F-M Outstanding Scholar award; principal oboist in Syracuse Young Artists Orchestra; Interlochen Summer Scholarship; Raymond Mann Visual & Performing Arts award; and John Philip Sousa Band award. His special interests are wildlife conservation, music composition, music performance (Carnatic vocal and Western Oboe), and model UN. His hobbies include drawing, painting, cooking, traveling, trivia, and board games.

Shreyank Bhatt

Shreyank is graduating from Jamesville-Dewitt High School. He is planning to attend SUNY Binghamton. He is an NYSPHSAA Section 3 champion, and has been a state level doubles player in his junior and senior year.

Somya Chakraborty

Somya is graduating from Fayetteville-Manlius High School and will be attending Syracuse University. She will be studying Biomedical Engineering and plans to minor in Statistics. She has been recognized as a Leadership Scholar and will be a member of the Renée Crown Honors Program. Somya recently received a third-degree black belt in martial arts and has won awards for Art, Business, and English during her time in high school.

Jnana Mandir

by Vidyul Krishnan

Jnana Mandir, 'Temple of Knowledge', is dedicated to serving the spiritual and religious needs of the local and global communities. Children and adults are provided with lots of opportunities to enrich their knowledge of Sanatana Dharma, with in-person as well as virtual programming. Popular hymns and texts are taught in live zoom sessions. Our ongoing series are on Bhagavatam and Mundaka Upanishad, at present. Jnana Mandir has also conducted special events for Makara Sankranti, Mahashivratri, Sri Rama Navami, and Guru Purnima in 2024, while imparting knowledge about the significance of the same.

For the complete list of activities, refer to www.jnanamandir.com/resources. The schedule is available at www.jnanamandir.com/events. To enroll children in classes, visit www.jnanamandir.com/class.

For further information, please contact Jnanamandir101@gmail.com or Vidyubala@yahoo.com

Your Health

Do you snore?

by Dr. Kumar Ashutosh

*There was a man from Calcutta
Who coated his tonsils with butta
So he converted his snore
From a thunderous roar
To a soft oleaginous mutta
[Ogden Nash, 1902-1971]*

I do not know whether the snorer of the poem did convert his snores to a pleasant sound. But snoring is a common problem. About one in seven men and one in ten women snore almost every time they sleep.

Every normal person snores occasionally. This is annoying to bed partners and even sometimes to those sleeping as far as the next room. This is a known cause of marital break up, especially during social isolation, and may be a cause for divorce.

To evaluate snoring and sleep, just answer the following 8 questions. Do you doze off or feel sleepy during:

1. Sitting and reading
2. Sitting and talking to someone
3. Sitting inactive in a public place (e.g., a theater or a meeting)
4. Sitting quietly after a lunch without alcohol
5. Watching television
6. Lying down to rest in the afternoon when circumstances permit
7. As a passenger in a car for an hour without a break
8. In the car while stopped for a few minutes in traffic

Now, assign points to your answers:

- Assign 0 points if never
- 1 point if rarely (once a month or less frequently)
- 2 points if frequently but not always, and
- 3 points if daily or every time you fall asleep

Then add all your points. If your total score is 3 or less do not worry. You have only primary snoring. That may be annoying to you and neighbors but it would not have any physical bad health effects. If it really bothers you, an ENT specialist can deal with it.

If the total score is between 3 to 9, you might seek help if sleepiness is really interfering with your life, or if you are in an occupation where even a remote chance of drowsiness may be dangerous (such as pilots, heavy machinery operators, long distance truck drivers, school bus or taxi drivers).

Details on Upcoming Events

India Day Picnic

ICRCC EVENT



INDIA DAY PICNIC

LET'S CELEBRATE 77 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE OF INDIA TOGETHER

Saturday, August 17, 3:00-7:00PM



Google sheet for the signing up for food will be available soon.

Where: "Bay View Shelter" at Willow Bay Picnic Area

Onondaga Lake Park

228 E Shore Trail, Liverpool, NY 13088

Contact: Surabhi Raina, surabhiraina1@gmail.com

Bollywood Program



India Community Religious & Cultural Center
SYRACUSE, N.Y., U.S.A.

niche
entertainment

Pancham...

the genius of RD Burman
Spectacular music & dance bonanza

Concept
Madan Kulkarni

Direction
Milind Oak

Singers
Jitendra Abhyankar, Chaitanya Kulkarni, Abhilasha Chellam, Malvika Dixit

Dancers
Kunal Phadke, Abhishek Havaragi, Rutuja Ingle, Riya Desai

Sun., Sept. 01, 2024. Seating: 4:30 pm. Show: 5 pm
The Palace Theatre, 2384 James St, Syracuse, NY 13206

Tickets	
ICRCC members:	\$20
non-members:	\$30
Children 12 & under free.	

Sponsor the program for \$200
with 2 complimentary tickets and preferred seating
Buy Tickets In Advance: www.icrcc.org
Contact
shridevi@icrcc.org, sunil4911@gmail.com

SCAN ME

Funding for this program is supported in part by:
The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.
&
The Onondaga County and the Trust for Cultural Resources of the County of Onondaga, with the support of the County Executive and administered by CNY Arts

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Council on the Arts
CNY ARTS

ICRCC Board and Committee Members

Executive Board Members

Shridevi Karikehalli	shridevi@icrcc.org	(President)
Kishan Mehrotra	mehrotra@syrr.edu	(Vice President)
Jayant Datta	icrcc.fin@gmail.com	(Treasurer)
Chaitanya Halbe	chaithalbe@gmail.com	(Secretary)

Board Members

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Ashok Sangani	asangani@syrr.edu

Committees

Building: Sunil Gupta (Chair), Ashok Sangani, Hemant Kale, Jayshri Prasad, Kishan Mehrotra, Chilukuri Mohan

Bylaws: Shalabh Maroo (Chair), Bandaru Ramarao

Cultural: Jayant Datta (Chair), Chilukuri Mohan, Falguni Vora, Uday Banerjee, Sudha Raj, Seema Sureshkumar

Finance: Jayant Datta (Chair), Ashok Sangani, Hemant Kale

Grants: Shalabh Maroo (Chair), Bandaru Ramarao, Kishan Mehrotra, Jayant Datta

Membership: Chaitanya Halbe (Chair), Jayant Narang

Newsletter: Ramesh Gaonkar (Chair), Chilukuri Mohan, Jayant Datta, Kishan Mehrotra

Nominations: Vishnu Sishtla (Chair)

Website: Sunil Gupta (Chair), Jayant Narang, Shalabh Maroo

The President is an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominations Committee

Connect with us:

email: shridevi@icrcc.org

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