



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

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

<http://www.icrcc.org> — <http://www.facebook.com/ICRCC>

September 13, 2026

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Event	Date	Place	Contact
Ghazals, Light Classical, and Bollywood Music (Astha Shukla)	September 12	ICRCC Center	Mohan
Hall Naming Ceremony	September 20	ICRCC Center	Shridevi
Sitar Concert by Kalyan Majumdar	October 3	ICRCC Center	Anirban
Diwali	November 14	Oncenter	Rinki
Christmas	December 12	ICRCC Center	Shridevi

1 President's Message

Dear Friends,

ICRCC has been having a great year so far. Following the Holi, Bollywood music, and Spring Festival programs, we had a successful fundraising effort for Syracuse school children, and celebrated the joyful anniversary of India's Independence Day. Details are in the rest of this newsletter.

Other smaller scale programs have also been organized at the India Center, including Yoga, karaoke music, and game nights—please note that we now have a ping pong table downstairs thanks to someone on the Board. Attendance in the latter has not been strong, perhaps due to scheduling on weekdays, or because we don't want to have fun—is that possible? Please let us know what you think.

We hope to see strong participation in the major events planned for each month of the rest of the year: a vocal music program (ghazals, light classical and Bollywood) on Sep. 12, the naming ceremony for the upstairs Hall (in the India Center) on Sep. 20, a sitar concert on Oct. 3, Diwali on Nov. 14, and Christmas on Dec. 12. If anyone would like to help organize an event, please contact someone on the Board.

Other work is also being diligently performed and planned, e.g., renovating the parking lot. Lots of effort goes into these larger projects as well as the day-to-day maintenance of the building and premises. Board members who have been working on these deserve our heartfelt gratitude, as do several non-Board members who have continued to help the community over several years.

New Board members (Rinki, Pasha, and Deepal) have recently joined our team, and the Board is now at full strength (15). While we still have four more months in this year, please note that 5 Board members are elected every year, and we hope to see ICRCC members volunteering for this important task for 2027. Please contact the Nominations Committee members if you may be interested. Regular infusion of new Board members and their ideas is necessary to rejuvenate any organization and retain vitality in the community. The overlap in terms allows new members to learn what's needed from previously elected members. Thanks!

Sincerely,
Chilukuri K. Mohan
President, ICRCC

Connect with us:
email: mohan@syr.edu
facebook: www.facebook.com/ICRCC/
Written material can be mailed to:

ICRCC
1990 Meadowbrook Drive
Syracuse, NY 13224

2 Membership Information

If you are already a member of ICRCC, THANK YOU – we sincerely appreciate your ongoing support. It validates our mission of sharing India’s rich heritage with the larger Central New York Community.

As a 100% volunteer-run organization, we try to maximize the impact of your membership funds by planning a wide variety of events throughout the year to serve our community.

If you are not a member, please consider joining to enjoy the following benefits:

- attend ICRCC events at reduced rates;
- attend the General Body Meeting (GBM);
- shape the future of ICRCC by becoming a board member.

Membership details are shown below:

ICRCC MEMBERSHIP

Regular Yearly Membership:	Family – \$75	Single – \$50
Permanent Membership:	Family – \$1500	Single – \$1000

Online payment preferred.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Priyanka Kaul: kaulpri@upstate.edu

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 consult your Tax advisor.

3 Update on ICRCC Events

3.1 Spring Festival by Falguni Vora

This year's Spring Festival brought much-needed warmth, color, and vibrancy. The cultural segment was truly beautiful and better than ever.

The two-hour program showcased the incredible variety and diversity that India is known for. From classical dances and yoga demonstrations to vibrant folk and Bollywood performances, it was a celebration of Indian culture that will be remembered for a long time.

With 122 participants, this year's festival set an all-time record. The 24-minute finale, presented by 24 participants and representing folk traditions from 11 Indian states, beautifully captured the rich flavors and diversity of Indian culture at its best.

Our dynamic and energetic young hosts kept the program flowing seamlessly and did a wonderful job of engaging and captivating the audience throughout the evening. It was truly a magical evening—colorful, vibrant, diverse, and filled with talent. Most importantly, it was a wonderfully enjoyable and well-organized celebration of the richness of Indian culture.



3.2 Raga Meets Yoga by Priyanka Kaul



ICRCC hosted a unique Memorial Day celebration that brought together the community in its premises. The event was attended by young and old participants of ages 8 to 88. The event kicked off with a mindful Yoga session showing gratitude to those whose sacrifices made these freedoms possible. ICRCC also hosted family games. Including bridge, table tennis, and carrom.

In addition, folks enjoyed an Indian musical karaoke event. The Memorial Day spirit was alive with singers singing patriotic songs in addition to their favorite Bollywood songs. It was heartening to see a community coming together, bringing food, fun-filled songs and yoga to celebrate this holiday in true desi style.



3.3 Community Fund-Raising Effort for Children at a Syracuse School by Chilukuri Mohan

Many of us donate time or money, participating in charitable activities in USA, India, or elsewhere. But the surprising secret is that there are needy children in our own region, with no assurance of regular nutritious meals, a safe place to sleep, or clothes suitable for the weather. How can we expect them to become productive citizens who will contribute to the long-term growth of this country, if we are unable to ensure that they have the necessities of life giving them a chance to succeed in life?



Following communications with Dr. Mantosh Dewan (Upstate President, and former ICRCC President), who has been working for some time with Syracuse city schools to provide mental health counseling assistance for schoolchildren, the ICRCC Board decided to provide support for children in the King Elementary school, where many students have considerable unmet needs for basic supplies. In a short period of time, we raised sufficient funds to provide a set of clothes for each of the 450 students at that school, distributed at an event shortly before the end of the school year. Being there in person made us realize the importance of what we can do for them, at a relatively small cost. Seeing smiles on the faces of little children makes everything worthwhile.

Our goal is to build a long-term supportive relationship with the school, including other fund-raising and

volunteering efforts. We are hoping to collaborate with other individuals and organizations that are also attempting to help these children.

Would you like to participate in the MLK Enrichment Afterschool Program (held from Oct. 13 on every Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:10 p.m.)? If yes, please send email ASAP to VEITL@upstate.edu (Ms. Linda Veit, who works closely with Dr. Mantosh Dewan).

3.4 India Day by Anirban Acharya

Annual India Day Celebration! It was truly a grand success. What a spectacular day it was!

On August 15, 2026, the Indian community with their friends and family gathered at the Bay View shelter in Onondaga Lake Park for the annual celebration of Indian Independence. The air was filled with a sense of togetherness and joy as all came together to celebrate heritage and build connections for life.

The celebrations kicked off with a beautiful display of patriotism from our young community members. The children moved everyone by singing patriotic songs, including both the Indian and the US national anthems. It was a wonderful reminder of the many ways of belonging we cherish so dearly.

A Feast for the Soul: No Indian celebration is complete without food! The participants enjoyed a bounty of delicious dishes prepared and brought by the community. A major highlight for the kids (and perhaps a few adults too!) was the Frozen Yogurt truck, which was a huge hit in the summer heat.

Spontaneous Joy on the Dance Floor: One of the most memorable moments of the day was when an impromptu dance party broke out. It was incredible to see everyone participating, letting loose, and simply enjoying the rhythm of the music together.

A Special Thank You to Our Volunteers: This event was a true testament to the power of our community. ICRCC board extends a massive thank you to our volunteers and everyone who contributed their time and energy. Since all the wonderful foods were prepared and brought by the community, this day would not have been possible without your hands-on help and generosity. Whether you helped with the setup at the Bay View shelter or coordinated the activities, your hard work created the space for us to build those lasting connections. We are so grateful for your dedication!



4 Building Committee Report

by Kishan Mehrotra

As our community members may have realized, ICRCC's building parking lot requires significant repairs to address deterioration due to many holes resulting in safety issues, and the overall appearance of the property. The parking lot is a major property asset and an important part of the safety and appearance of the building. We have addressed this issue over the past several years after purchasing the building but delayed this project due to cost. This year, the Building Committee finally realized that, despite the huge cost, improving its condition now will help prevent further deterioration and potentially higher repair costs in the future. The committee recommended and the board approved undertaking a comprehensive parking lot improvement project. The work will be performed by Superior Seal and Paving Company in September. The work includes excavating existing asphalt and resurfacing. Parking lot striping and painting will be performed. Two handicap spots will be identified.



This summer, a major effort was undertaken by some of us to thoroughly clean and organize the storage area, including removing and disposing of unnecessary and unusable items and rearranging the remaining materials in a more orderly and accessible manner. This work significantly improved the overall condition and organization of the storage space.

In past years, we used to clean the exterior of our building on Earth Day. However, this year the exterior cleaning of the community building could not be completed. We are hoping to get it done by hiring a professional.

We understand that some of our community members are experiencing difficulties reserving our hall through the website. We plan to work to fix and improve the reservation system so that the process is easier and more reliable. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to restore full functionality and ensure a smooth and convenient booking experience. In the mean time please use the following step by step procedure:

1. Contact Kishan Mehrotra (mehrotra@syr.edu) or any other board member (see list on page 11) to check if the date is available.
2. If the date is available, go to ICRCC.org → RESERVATIONS → Read Reservation Policy.
3. Go to ICRCC.org → SHOP NOW → pay by credit card for Hall Reservation, Kitchen use (if you plan to use it), Hall Reservation Security Deposit.
4. Email this information to Kishan Mehrotra. Please provide your name, address, and phone number, because, presently, we are returning Security Deposit by mail.

5 A Celebration of Young Talent

by Suman Swarnkar

We invited members of our young community to showcase their talents and share their creativity with us. ICRC invited submissions from talented young people under the age of 15 for inclusion in our forthcoming newsletter(s).

Submission Guidelines were:

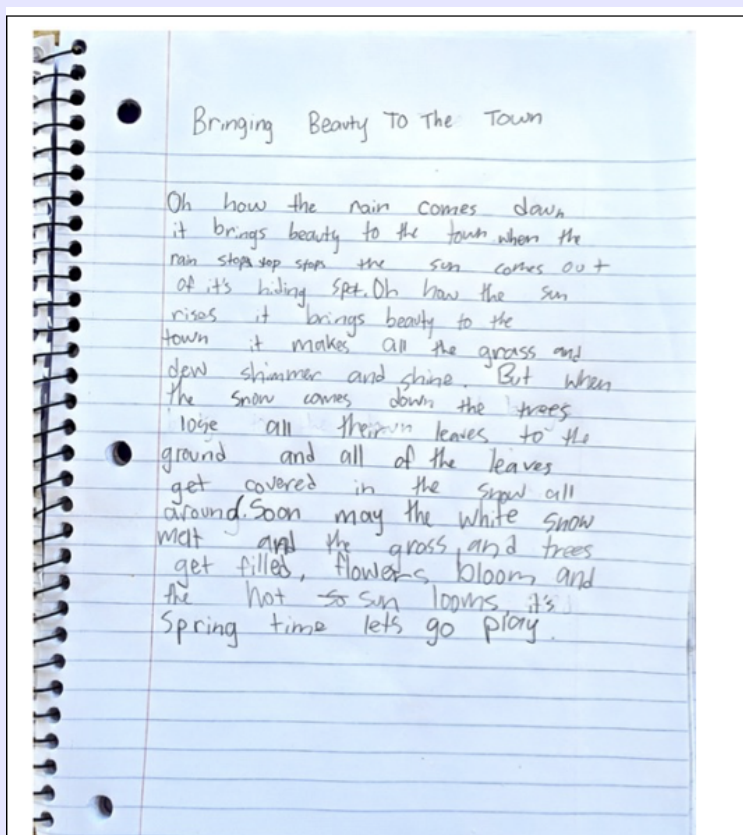
- Contributors must be under 15 years of age.
- All work must be original and created by the participant (please do not submit a work generated by AI tools or software).
- Parents or guardians should provide consent for publication.

Attached are three wonderful contributions that highlight the enthusiasm and talent of our young community members. Enjoy and keep sending your contributions for future editions of our newsletter.

1. *Bringing Beauty to the Town*

Ariya Oza, Age 10

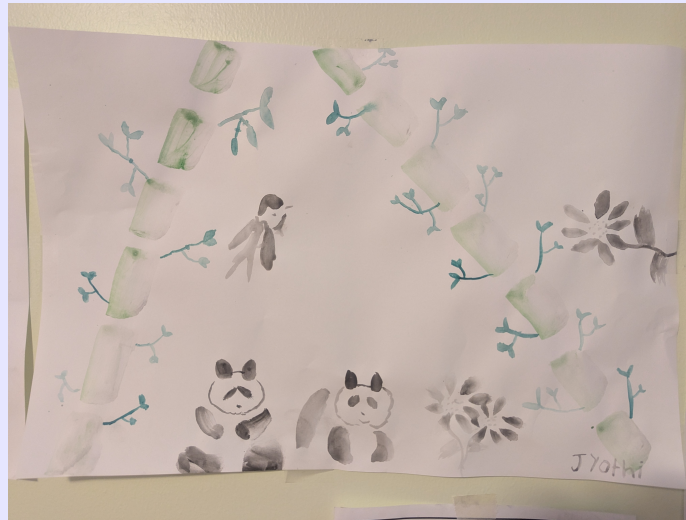
Daughter of Mudrika & Sidharth Oza



2. *Pandas*

Jyothi Kollali-Tampone, Age 11

Daughter of Sapna Kollali & Kevin Tampone



3. *Magic in the Forest*

Jiya Sura, Age 8

Daughter of Anjali Sura



6 Upcoming Events

A Musical Journey



ICRCC PRESENTS

A MUSICAL JOURNEY WITH ASTHA SHUKLA

*A soulful evening of
Ghazals, Light Classical
& Bollywood*



FEATURING RENOWNED ACCOMPANISTS



Sri Rohan
Prabhudesai
(Harmonium)



Sri Suresh
Ramaswamy
(Tabla)



Sri Chirag
Dixit
(Sarangi)



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM



ICRCC Center
1990 Meadowbrook Dr,
Syracuse, NY 13224



TICKETS & ADMISSION:

 STUDENTS \$10	 MEMBER ADULTS \$20	 NON-MEMBERS \$30
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★ SPONSORSHIP
\$100
2 TICKETS FREE

 PURCHASE ONLINE AT:
<https://icrcc.org/ICRCC/ShopNowNew>

✉ **CONTACT INFO:** ckmohan@syr.edu

This project is made possible with funds from the County of Onondaga
with the support of the County Executive
and administered by CNY Arts.

7 ICRCC Board and Membership

ICRCC Board and Committee Members

Executive Board Members

Chilikuri Mohan	ckmohan@syr.edu	(President)
Suman Swarnkar	suman@icrcc.org	(Vice President)
Sonal Trivedi	sonal018@gmail.com	(Treasurer)
Falguni Vora	falguni@icrcc.org	(Secretary)

Board Members

Anirban Acharya	anirban.acharya@gmail.com
Rinki Agarwal	rinki.agarwal@gmail.com
Natarajan Gautam	ngautam@syr.edu
Shridevi Karikhehalli	shridevi@icrcc.org
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Poonam Rani	poonamrami97@gmail.com
Suman Swarnkar	suman@icrcc.org
Sonal Trivedi	sonal018@gmail.com
Falguni Vora	falguni@icrcc.org
Pardeep Zirath	pkzirath@yahoo.com

Committees

Building:	Kishan Mehrotra (Chair), Shridevi Karikhehalli, Jayshri Prasad, Natarajan Gautam
Bylaws:	Sonal Trivedi (Chair), Falguni Vora, Shridevi Karikhehalli
Cultural:	Falguni Vora (Chair), Poonam Rani, Priyanka Kaul, Shridevi Karikhehalli, Pradeep Zirath
Finance:	Anirban Acharya (Chair), Sonal Trivedi, Jayant Datta (external)
Grants:	Shridevi Karikhehalli (Chair), Anirban Acharya, Falguni Vora
Membership:	Priyanka Kaul (Chair), Falguni Vora, Poonam Rani
Newsletter:	Suman Swarnkar (Chair), Kishan Mehrotra, Jayant Datta (external)
Nominations:	Surabhi Raina (Co-Chair), Vishnu (Co-Chair)
Website:	Falguni Vora (Chair), Poonam Rani

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

Connect with us:

email: mohan@syr.edu

facebook: www.facebook.com/ICRCC/

Written material can be mailed to:

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1990 Meadowbrook Drive
Syracuse, NY 13224