



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

*A non-profit organization founded in 1984*

**P.O. BOX 387 DEWITT, NY 13214**

<http://www.icrcc.org>

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

Email: [icrcc17@gmail.com](mailto:icrcc17@gmail.com)

### ***July-August 2017 Newsletter***

#### **What's in this issue?**

1. President's Message
2. Membership Request
3. India Day Picnic
4. Recent Graduates
5. Spring Festival
6. Music Program; Community News
7. Permanent Member Profile: Dilip and Anita Bhole
8. Remembering Shreyas Roy
9. *Sahariya*
10. ICRCC Board and Permanent Members

#### **Upcoming Event Summary**

<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Who (Coordinator)</b>	<b>Additional Notes</b>
Aug. 13 (Saturday) 1PM-5PM	<b>Picnic</b>	Saw Mill Shelter at Onondaga Park, Liverpool, NY	<a href="mailto:sanjeev.kumar@prudential.com">sanjeev.kumar@prudential.com</a>	Free event; food available for purchase
Sep.29-30 & Oct.6-7	<b>Garba</b>		<a href="mailto:kishorkanabar@gmail.com">kishorkanabar@gmail.com</a>	
Oct. 29	<b>Diwali</b>	Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool		

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

**Please attend and participate!**

## Message from the ICRCC President

Dear Community Members,

Hope everyone is having a wonderful summer time. Also, congratulations to all the recent School and College Graduates in our community. On behalf of the ICRCC Board I thank the community for your support for the recent 2 successful events: **Spring Festival in May** and **Music Festival in June**.

We celebrated Spring Festival on May 13th, 2017 at Wellwood Middle School at Fayetteville. I think we had a very well enjoyed, well attended cultural program in recent times. The varieties of programs presented include Kuchipudi, Kathak, Bollywood Dance, Bharatanatyam, Skit, Contemporary Kathak, Bhangra, Song, Bollywood Folk Fusion, Instrumental Music, Pinga etc. We thank many organizers including Shanthipriya, Seema, Kritika, Rekha Balaji, Falguni, Ramya, Kiran Bhimani, Swarnima and many others who worked behind the scene. I give most credits to Falguni Vora, our Board Member who coordinated the Spring Festival with great skill and dedication! Thank you! I am also congratulating Rama Mehrotra for coordinating the Food Court for providing a wonderful service for our guests. Also thanking Pravin gupta for his support .There were many volunteers from the General body who helped at the Food court. Many people donated food for the Spring Festival, making the event cost effective. Also thanking Sanjeev Kumar for managing the Ticket counter, Ramana Adavikolanu for the Stage Technical support and all other Board Members for helping in various ways to make this year's Spring Festival a special one. During the spring Festival event, we introduced **Food Bank of CNY** to the ICRCC community. During the day, we have collected food and donations, and ICRCC has helped to provide 1516 meals back to the Syracuse community. Thanks to all donors and coordinator C.K.Mohan.

Music Program: We had a wonderful Music Concert (Ghazals, Thumris, and Semi-classical Hindi songs) by Smt. Astha Shukla of NJ on June 17, 2017. This was made possible by many sponsors in our community. We had more than the expected audience, and I thank C.K.Mohan for organizing this event.

Our immediate next event is **ICRCC Picnic on Aug. 13, 2017**. This will soon be followed by **Garba Celebrations from September 29<sup>th</sup>**, and **Diwali Celebrations on October 29<sup>th</sup>**. Please mark your calendar for these events.

If you would like to organize any more events, Please contact the ICRCC Secretary or me.

Thank you all for the participation in cultural events, please continue with your involvement.

We have added 2 Permanent Member families this year. Since the last update, we added 5 more new members including a Permanent member family: Dr. Sujatha Murthy and Dr. Vadrevu R. Murthy.

Welcome and thank you for supporting the Indian community.

Everything is made possible with the community support and joint effort of our Board members. Thank you. Looking forward to see on August 13. Bring more friends with you.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Kappil

**Become a Member!**

If you are not yet a member, Please join us. Regular Membership is (\$50/Family and \$30/Single)

Permanent category is: Family Membership: \$1000; Single Person: \$750.

You may pay online: <http://www.icrcc.org/membership.html> or Mail a check to:

**ICRCC, PO Box 387, Dewitt, NY 13214.**

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

Shridevi Karikehalli (Coordinator): [shridilip@hotmail.com](mailto:shridilip@hotmail.com)

Joseph Kappil [joekappil@gmail.com](mailto:joekappil@gmail.com)

Falguni Vora [frvora@yahoo.com](mailto:frvora@yahoo.com)

Deepal Shah [shahdeepalr@gmail.com](mailto:shahdeepalr@gmail.com)

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

**ICRCC Cordially Invites You to Attend**

# india Day Picnic



*Sunday, August 13th 2017*  
**1:00pm to 5:00pm**

*Saw Mill Creek Shelter at Willow Bay*

7199 Onondaga Lake Park Trail, Liverpool, NY 13088

## **Free Admission!**

\* Magic show by Twin Magicians 3:30pm

\* Games and Activities include:

- Cricket
  - Volley Ball
  - Badminton
  - Frisbee
  - Bingo
  - Bounce house for kids
- \* Lots of food available for purchase

Please RSVP by signing up on the link below \*

**<http://evite.me/zzEVXdSz1j>**

or with any one board member listed below

Sanjeev Kumar (Coordinator) 315-664-2596 [skumar@oswego.edu](mailto:skumar@oswego.edu)

Deepal Shah (Coordinator) 215-375-4137 [shahdeepal@gmail.com](mailto:shahdeepal@gmail.com)

Hitesh Patel (Coordinator) 716-725-7444 [devbaluda@yahoo.com](mailto:devbaluda@yahoo.com)

Joe Kappil (President) 315-395-6148 [joekappil@gmail.com](mailto:joekappil@gmail.com)

Any contributions to ICRCC will be graciously welcomed to help us cover the cost

**India Community Religious and Cultural Center**

<http://www.icrcc.org>

Directions: From Syracuse Area: Rt 370 North to Rt 370 West, Left onto Long Branch Road, Left onto Willow Bay Entrance Road (if you get to the single lane blue/gray bridge, you would have gone too far), Drive under the Thruway Bridge Parking Lot, Saw Mill Shelter will be on the left across from the Parking Lot.

## Recent Graduates (High School and College)

(Compiled with the help of various Board Members and Dr. Ramesh Gaonkar)

We congratulate all the students from our community members' families who graduated from various schools and colleges this year, many of them with wonderful academic achievements and moving on to the next steps in their promising careers. Below are the details of some of the students whose families have sent the information for this newsletter (from among the approximately 30 graduates), listed below in alphabetical order.

- **Amar Bhatt** received a BS and MS in Computer Eng. (with a minor in Economics), from Rochester Institute of Technology, and has been on the Dean's List, Summa Cum Laude, with an Excellence in Student Life Award. He was a member of the Organization for the Alliance of Students from the Indian Subcontinent, Global Union, RIT Bhangra, Student Government, and Sigma Chi.
- **Monica Bhole**, received a PhD in Economics from Stanford University, and will be working at Pandora Media Inc.
- **Milan Gupta**, from Christian Brothers Academy, graduated with High Honors, won Mathematics Award, National Merit Commended Student, US Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award, and is a Member of the National Honor Society. He was a member of the varsity basketball team, varsity tennis team, science olympiad team, and math league. He will be studying at the University of Michigan, in a dual-degree program in Engineering along with Biopsychology, Cognitive Science, and Neuroscience.
- **Harshal Nanawati**, from Jamesville-Dewitt High School, is a member of the Math Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society. He had participated in Varsity Tennis, Model United Nations Club, Science Olympiad, Spanish Club, and the Math Team. He is planning to study Aerospace Engineering at Syracuse University, and is a recipient of the *Engineering and Computer Science Leadership Scholar Award*.
- **Yasha Parawar**, from Charles W. Baker High School, is a member of the national honor society. She participated in tennis and piano, with many recitals to her credit. She received Good Person awards, and had raised money for charity. She plans to attend SUNY at Binghamton, majoring in Political Science and Education. She loves politics and history, and is interested in pursuing a career in teaching or law.
- **Richa Zirath**, from Christian Brothers Academy, graduated with high honors as a member of the national honor society. She will be attending Loyola University in Maryland, pursuing a business major on the pre-med track.



## Spring Festival

We had a very successful Spring Festival celebration on May 13, with an excellent cultural program with music, dance, and skits by children and the young-at-heart from our community. The performances truly represented the diversity and soul of India! The M.C.s were crisp as well as hilarious who kept us laughing and engaged. Attendees enjoyed wide variety of food sponsored by board members and community members. It was a great opportunity for everyone to mingle and enjoy social interactions. Many thanks to the board members and other volunteers who worked very hard to make this a successful event! We also had a short presentation by the Executive Director of the Food Bank of CNY, and a food drive and donations that have helped the needy in our region.



## Music Program

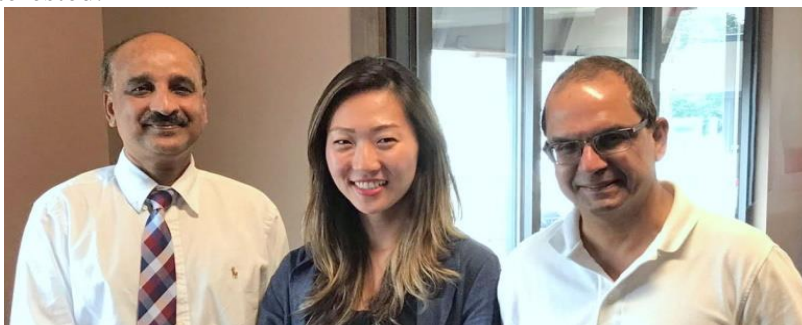
About 80 community members attended an excellent program of ghazals, thumris, and old Hindi movie songs, presented by singer Smt. Astha Shukla from New Jersey, along with Rohan Prabhudesai on the harmonium, and Suresh Ramaswamy on the tabla. The concert was made possible by the generous support of many community members: Yatish and Vidya Goyal, Joseph and Beena Kappil, Vinod and Lakshmi Kavety, Sanjeev Kumar (with Prudential), Atul and Shylaja Maini, Viraj Patel (with Quality Inn, Liverpool), Ramesh and Surabhi Raina, Ajoy and Geeta Roy, Probal and Sunanda Sanyal, Radhakrishna and Seema Sureshkumar. Snacks and sweets were donated by *Indian Fashion* (Sweets, Jewellery & Clothing, 4469 E. Genesee St., Dewitt). George Gleeson had done a great job with audio & lighting, and the Manlius Village Auditorium was a great venue, secured by the hard work of Pravin Gupta.

This was fun! Please let us know if you have contacts with musicians that we may bring to Syracuse.



### Community News: Joseph Kappil Meeting with NYS Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Office

As initiated by NYS Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's office C.K.Mohan and I recently met with Joanne Choi, Assistant Director of Asian American Affairs. She said their office can arrange informational workshops that may be of interest to our Indian Community members; please let us know if you would be interested in any specific topic. As we discussed on various community challenges, Ms. Choi also invited us to send resumes of community members who may be interested in working on various NYS boards and organizations; please contact us if interested.



Joseph Kappil (ICRCC President), Joanne Choi & C.K.Mohan(Director)

## Permanent Member Profiles: Anita and Dilip Bhole



Dilip received his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from IIT, Bombay, and a Master's degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1972. For ten years, he worked for M. W. Kellogg Company in Houston and also completed his MBA degree at the University of Houston. His work at Kellogg provided him with challenging opportunities such as designing the tallest processing column and a field assignment on an LNG plant in Algeria. After spending two years in Algeria, Dilip and his family moved to the New York/New Jersey area. Dilip worked as a corporate planner in the Utility Industry in New York and New Jersey area for about ten years, before moving to Syracuse.

Anita has a medical degree from Karnatak University, and she completed her residency in Pediatrics and fellowship in Gastroenterology at the Westchester Medical Center, New York Medical College. Anita has been in a group practice as a Pediatric Gastroenterologist. She is attached to St. Joseph's Hospital. In addition to her private practice, Anita has been running a clinic at St. Joseph's Hospital to serve the needs of the community in downtown Syracuse.

They have two children – Vikram and Monica. Vikram received Master's degree in Applied Statistics from Rochester Institute of Technology, and he works for Deloitte & Touche in Washington, DC. Monica received a PhD degree in Economics from Stanford University.

Dilip has been very active in ICRCC activities. He has served twice as the President of ICRCC, and organized music programs of world renowned musicians Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and Zakir Hussain. Dilip and Anita continue to be active in community affairs and feel privileged to live in CNY.



## Remembering Shreyas Roy



We lost Shreyas Kumar Roy, one of the brightest young stars of our community, on July 23, 2017, in an unfortunate accident in Montreal, leaving his family and friends engulfed in grief. A service was held on July 29, with the funeral home and parking lot overflowing with people who had come from near and far to share his family's grief and support each other as we wait for the tide of tears to recede.

Shreyas was the beloved son of Geeta and Ajoy Roy, and brother of Preyas Roy, born March 1, 1979, in New York City. He spent his childhood growing up in Patna with his grandparents and extended family, from whom he learnt how to love and care for all those around us, especially the needy.

Shreyas then moved to Syracuse, studying at Manlius-Pebble Hill School and then LeMoyne College. He was involved in many activities and was always the greatest source of passion and positive energy in everything that he took on. His bachelor's degree included majors in Chemistry, English, and Economics, and minors in Drama and Spanish, and he wrote a thesis title "Quantum Love and the Screaming Electron: a Misinterpretation of Science for Poetry." That title alone is an example of his creativity, diverse interests, and tremendous enthusiasm for life.

Shreyas completed his medical degree at McGill University in 2006; even in his graduation speech, he spoke of caring for the underprivileged. His residency training was in General Surgery at SUNY Upstate Medical University, where he conducted research on lung disease in sepsis, and became the Chief Surgical Resident; he was also the lead guitarist for a ska-punk band!

Shreyas became a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada after a fellowship in Pediatric Surgery at Hopital Sainte-Justine, Université de Montréal, where he was about to begin a position as an attending surgeon in pediatric hepatobiliary surgery and liver transplants; the first American in 22 years to be chosen for this prestigious position.

Shreyas loved his family, partner Veronique, friends, music, his dog Umberto, cooking Bihari food, the tireless pursuit of social justice, and every adventure that he could find. He was the life of every party, and the star dancer everywhere. His friends and colleagues have recalled so many stories about his wit, energy, humor and compassion, that it is impossible to imagine this world without him.

He will be missed by us all.

## Sahariya

India is home to many indigenous tribes who have lived for thousands of years in hills and jungles. The largest are perhaps the Bhils (12.7 million) and Gonds (10.8 million). The Sahariya (Saharia) tribe numbers over 0.5 million, residing in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, on both sides of river Chambal.<sup>1</sup>

The Sahariya used to be primarily hunter-gatherers, relying on the produce of the forest. They also cultivated traditional millets along the banks of the rivers and rivulets where their hamlets are situated in the forests of the Vindhyas. Commercial cultivation of wheat, mustard and chickpea is a more recent practice, but their returns are quite low due to small landholding size. In the past two decades, they have been losing access to forest lands; farm size has also decreased because of a rising population. Medical facilities are scarce, and health problems are prevalent; many of them are landless laborers working in stone mining, and a third of them suffer from asthma. Chronic indebtedness and malnutrition, especially among children, are significant concerns.

Illiteracy is a major problem, making it difficult for those pushed off from land-based livelihoods to find gainful employment outside the region. In Madhya Pradesh, their literacy rates have been estimated at 32%, with only 0.2% of the population completing 12<sup>th</sup> grade.<sup>2</sup> Female literacy rates are even lower.

The *Adharshila Educational Initiative* (<http://adharshila.org.in>), beginning in 2002 in Agara village (Sheopur district), provides high quality, low cost, meaningful and joyful education to rural children from underprivileged families. *Adharshila* has developed a middle & high school near the Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary, and also runs Satellite resource centers to help students in low-performing government schools to improve educational attainments. *Adharshila* reaches out to more than a thousand kids in over 25 villages today. Some graduates return as teachers, while others obtain employment in the government and private sectors. Interestingly, the curriculum includes diverse types of skill development activities, including machine repair and welding, equitable and sustainable conservation of biodiversity, sustainable agriculture for semi-arid tropics, and indigenous health traditions and knowledge. *Adharshila* also reaches out to parents and others in the community to impart legal literacy and is working to keep alive their fast-depleting knowledge about forests and wildlife through an ecotourism initiative. The funding has come primarily from foundations and organizations such as *ASHA for Education*; about 36% comes from individual international donors. Donation dollars go a long way: about \$80/child, \$1000/teacher for a year; an entire village (about 50 kids) can receive primary education for a year with about \$2200; tax-deductible contributions can be made through <https://www.globalgiving.org>.



(Photo credits: Adharshila Shiksha Samiti)

<sup>1</sup> Indian Ministry of Tribal Affairs, <http://tribal.nic.in/Statistics.aspx> (2011 census)

<sup>2</sup> "Sahariya Tribe: Society, Culture, Economy and Habitation" (V.P.Sati), *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences* 1(1):26-31 · January 2016

### ICRCC Board Members (2017):

**President:** Joseph Kappil, [joekappil@gmail.com](mailto:joekappil@gmail.com), 315-395-6148  
**Vice-President:** Kishor Kanabar, [kishorkanabar@gmail.com](mailto:kishorkanabar@gmail.com), 315-492-6372  
**Secretary:** Sapna Kollali, [smkollal@hotmail.com](mailto:smkollal@hotmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** Pravin Gupta, [pravin.gupta@verizon.net](mailto:pravin.gupta@verizon.net), 315-491-9271  
**Newsletter Editor:** Chilukuri K. Mohan, [mohan@syr.edu](mailto:mohan@syr.edu), 315-391-8516  
**Website Coordinator:** Ramana Adavikolanu, [ramana@icrcc.org](mailto:ramana@icrcc.org), 315-656-2829  
**Membership Coordinator:** Shridevi Karikhehalli, [shridilip@hotmail.com](mailto:shridilip@hotmail.com)  
Pavithra Chigateri, [pchigat@hotmail.com](mailto:pchigat@hotmail.com)  
Sanjeev Kumar, [skumar@oswego.edu](mailto:skumar@oswego.edu)  
Rama Mehrotra, [ramamehrotra@yahoo.com](mailto:ramamehrotra@yahoo.com), 315-446-9036  
Hitesh Patel, [devbaluda@yahoo.com](mailto:devbaluda@yahoo.com)  
Viraj Patel, [vpatel@vmpmanagement.com](mailto:vpatel@vmpmanagement.com)  
Deepal Shah, [shahdeepalr@gmail.com](mailto:shahdeepalr@gmail.com), 215-375-4137  
Abraham Thomas, [abethomas101@yahoo.com](mailto:abethomas101@yahoo.com), 315-468-3887  
Falguni Vora, [frvora@yahoo.com](mailto:frvora@yahoo.com)

**Finance Committee:** Pravin Gupta (Chairman), Chilukuri Mohan, Kishor Kanabar

**Membership Committee:** Shridevi Karikhehalli (Coordinator), Joseph Kappil, Falguni Vora, Deepal Shah

**Newcomers Welcome Committee:** Pavithra Chigateri, Abraham Thomas, Shridevi Karikhehalli

**Charity Drive:** Chilukuri Mohan, Joseph Kappil

**Student Recognition Program:** Pavithra Chigateri, Sapna Kollali

**Bylaws Review Committee:** Sanjeev Kumar (Chairman), Sapna Kollali, Rama Mehrotra

---

Connect with us by email at [icrcc17@gmail.com](mailto:icrcc17@gmail.com)

Written materials can be mailed to:

ICRCC  
P.O. Box 387  
Dewitt, NY 13214

#### List of Permanent Members

Anita and Dilip Bhole  
Harinakshi and Ravi Dabir  
Neerja Vajpayee and Ajeet Gajra  
Shaila and Ramesh Gaonkar  
Seena and Manoj Kumar  
Sujata and Vadrevu R. Murthy  
Damyanti and Satish Patel  
Madhuri and Vilas Patil  
Vijayalakshmi and Umeshchandra Patil  
Ravi Raman  
Neera and Ravi Seth  
Madhuri and P.K. Sharma  
Rajni and Praveen Simlote  
Manda and Jit Turakhia