



# 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: [icrcc18@gmail.com](mailto:icrcc18@gmail.com)

## ***July-August 2018 Newsletter***

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

1. President's Message
2. Greetings from the Editor
3. ICRCC Membership and Contact Info
4. Recent Cultural Programs Celebration Photos
5. Article by Kanishk Krishnan: Our Journey in Education
6. Graduating Students Information
7. Community News and Events
8. List of Permanent Members
9. Independence Day Picnic Flier and Directions

### **Upcoming ICRCC Events Summary 2018**

<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Who (Coordinator)</b>	<b>Additional Notes</b>
<b>August 19</b>	<b>Independence Day Picnic</b>	<b>Riverview Shelter at Lake Shore Park (Onondaga County Parks)</b>	Sanjeev Kumar	<b>Free admission. Games, Fun activity for kids Plenty of food</b>
<b>September 16</b>	<b>Bollywood Music Program</b>	<b>Storer Auditorium, OCC</b>	Shridevi Karikeshalli	<b>Sur Sangam, from India</b>
<b>September 28</b>	<b>Carnatic Music Concert</b>	<b>TBD</b>	Pavithra Chigateri	<b>By Gayathri Venkataraghavan</b>
<b>Nov. 4</b>	<b>Annual Diwali Dinner Celebrations</b>	<b>Grand Ballroom at the Marriott Downtown</b>	Chilukuri Mohan	<b>More details to follow</b>
<b>November 17</b>	<b>General Body Meeting</b>	<b>Details to follow</b>	Chilukuri Mohan	<b>Important: ICRCC Bylaws discussion</b>

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

## Message from the ICRCC President

Dear Friends,

We have had three great events since the previous newsletter: **Holi, Spring Festival**, and **Kathak** dance program. Many thanks to all the participants, sponsors, volunteers, and audience members, who made all these programs truly successful.

Our next planned event is the August picnic; in September, we are organizing a music program by accomplished musicians singing Bollywood songs. It would be wonderful if everyone arrives early enough so that we can start these events on time. Please **save the dates** for future events on your calendar, and look for updates on our website.

If you know of new people in the community who may be interested in Indian community cultural activities, please bring ICRCC to their attention, and recommend **membership**. Of course, if *you* have forgotten to pay your membership fee for the year, it is never too late! Members receive discounts on ticketed events, but the more important reason is that a vigorous organization is essential to continue having events of interest to the community. Organizing any event requires the combined efforts of many of us, and ICRCC facilitates the same. If individual members are interested in specific new activities, we can all work together to make them happen. New ideas are always welcome; please contact the executive committee members (Falguni Vora, Pravin Gupta, Sanjeev Kumar, and Chilukuri Mohan).

The ICRCC Board still has three vacancies this year; please contact us ASAP if you can **join us on the Board**. We extend a special invitation to those who are new to the area, as well as those who haven't served on the Board in previous years. Change in Board membership is essential to the healthy functioning of an organization such as ICRCC; if you have strong feelings about the organization's activities, the best way to address problems is to join the Board, and play an active role on improving how we serve the community.

ICRCC was formed in 1984 with the intention of acquiring a **building** or a physical community center; this has not happened over 34 years, despite periodically considering specific buildings for purchase. In 2014, a committee had looked into this, and examined how similar centers function in Binghamton and Rochester; the report leads us to conclude that it is time to retire the building plan. Some of the investment income generated on the original (building-related) gifts could be used to pay for renting or leasing space every year, making it easier to organize events of interest to the community.

We have been working on amendments to the **bylaws** of ICRCC, these will be discussed in the General Body Meeting on Nov. 17. Please attend: some proposed changes are substantial!

Sincerely,  
Chilukuri K. Mohan  
[icrcc18@gmail.com](mailto:icrcc18@gmail.com)

## Greetings From the Editor

Namaste!

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful summer in Central New York! Gone are those grey skies, mounds of snow, salt on the roads and subzero temperatures!

By the time this newsletter reaches you, most of the school children will have started their summer vacation, and will be either traveling, busy with summer camps, sports or volunteering.

I encourage all students to write down their summer experiences as a memoir and submit it to the ICRCC newsletter for publication. We can publish one or two articles in each newsletter.

Visits to India and meetings with family and friends, bonding with cousins, eating local cuisine and learning the local language all leave lasting memories. We invite children and adults to send interesting articles to ICRCC Newsletter for publication.

You can email your articles to: [shridilip@hotmail.com](mailto:shridilip@hotmail.com).

Thank you,

Shridevi Karikehalli

## ICRCC Membership Renewal

- Regular Membership is: \$50/Family and \$30/Single Member
- Permanent category is: Family Membership: \$1000; Single Member: \$750.

You may pay online: <http://www.icrcc.org/membership.html> (preferred method, as you can also enter your member details online) or mail a check to:

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

**\*\*\*\*Please contact one of the Board Members listed below if you are mailing a check to the PO Box address, so we can promptly make a note of your membership and add your name to the online directory.\*\*\*\***

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

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

Ramana Adavikolanu: [adavikolanu@hotmail.com](mailto:adavikolanu@hotmail.com)

Abraham Thomas: [abethomas101@yahoo.com](mailto:abethomas101@yahoo.com)

Pavithra Chigateri: [pavichigateri@kinneydrugs.com](mailto:pavichigateri@kinneydrugs.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

## Holi Celebration

The Holi event was a great success. It was a bright sunny seasonably warm day. Everyone had fun playing with the traditional Holi colors in the outdoor pavilion, and then dance indoors to the popular Indian music. As with any Indian function we had the tasty savory snacks and hot chai to uplift our mood even more.

We thank India Bazaar for donating Samosas for the event, and Dosa Grill for the chai. Special thanks to the young enthusiastic volunteers from SUNY Oswego, and Morrisville College.



## Holi Colors and Dance

## Spring Festival

Once again this year the young kids, and adults from our community had an extraordinary display of talent at the Annual Spring Festival Cultural Program. There were a variety of programs reflecting the rich cultural heritage and diversity of India. This year also there was a short presentation by the Executive Director of the Food Bank of CNY that has helped the needy in our region. The cultural program was followed by tasty food from different parts of India.

ICRCC Spring Festival Food Court: *Submitted by Joseph Kappil.*

Immediately following the cultural program, we had a large selection of tasty food items featuring cuisine from different regions of India for purchase at a very nominal price.

There was a generous contribution of food and funds by community members and Board members. They include: Abraham Thomas, Atul Maini, Chaitanya Chandravanka, Chilukuri Mohan, Falguni Vora, Hemant Kale, Joseph Kappil, Neerja Gajara, Pavithra Chigateri, Rachana Zirath, Ramana Adavikolanu, Santipriya, Shridevi Karikahalli, Sujata Murthy, Sunil Gupta, Surabhi Raina . Many community members volunteered to serve food and they include: Arundati Menon, Beena Kappil, Dhruv Thota, Julie Kappil, Kamala Ramadoss, Mahesh Menon, Nikhil Reddy, and Shailaja Potdar.

We also had many dishes catered by Dosa Grill, who also prepared on site fresh “bhaturas”

Special thanks to Pravin Gupta, for arranging and organizing things beforehand. Thanks to Hemant Kale, Sanjeev Kumar and other Board Members for the tremendous behind the scene work.

ICRCC thanks all community members for their continued enthusiasm and support.

Sincerely  
Joseph Kappil







**Group Dance**



**Fusion Dance**

## Kathak Dance by NrityaDhaara

We had a great Kathak dance performance by three generations of dancers from the same family on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pandita Manisha Sathe, Kathak Guru of great acclaim, and creator of “NrityaDhaara”, was accompanied by her daughter, daughter-in law and granddaughter. Seema Sureshkumar organized the event in association with ICRCC. Prior to the main performance, Seema and her students also gave a beautiful Kathak presentation. The event also featured an outstanding performance by accomplished Tabla artist Prasad Jagtap, who also gave accompaniment to the dance performance of the students. This event attracted a large enthusiastic audience. There was generous donation of tasty snacks from Dosa Grill for the audience during the intermission.



# OUR JOURNEY IN EDUCATION

By Kanishk Krishnan

Our journey with the educational world started in a very unorthodox fashion in September of 2013. Our little world, mine and my twin Kashi's, changed into an oasis of Learning from a parched land of autism riddled mind, amassing a wealth of knowledge and soaking up as much as we possibly could. All of this was made possible by ICI (Institute of Communication and Inclusion, SU) and ESM school district.

When I was fourteen years old, my mom watched a presentation for supported typing by Sujit Kurup and Srilata Kurup. That was a life changing moment for our entire family. Anxious about trying that method of communication for me, mom contacted Marilyn Chadwick to perform a formal evaluation and little did they know what they had unleashed in me. My insatiable desire to prove myself to the world drove me insane with a need for communication at school. When my old school refused to accommodate, a drastic decision to change school district for my brother and me was made by my parents within a week's time, literally. Watching a panel presentation by ESM at a local Autism Conference hosted by ICI, made them take a life altering decision.

Then the most exciting journey of my life started. It was a dear and ambitious journey to attain a Regents Diploma in five years with not much prior education from very young age. Whatever we observed and listened were etched in our brains forever however we were spending our middle school years in exclusive classrooms. We had to take a few extra classes to catch up with our peers. Really all that was, was a dear experience of education and autism learning to coexist.

The end result was an emergence of two students with autism earning a regular education and not sequestered in a special education environment. This journey has provided us with great opportunities to grow and be a part of something bigger than ourselves and make a difference in many aspects. I was honored to be a part of Youth Advisory Panel for New York State Department of Education, which helped design laws of Special Education. My brother Kashi has been a part of many advocacy campaigns and we both have been panelists for many seminars and conferences to create awareness among educators, parents, and general public. We both were able to achieve great success academically including an indictment in The National Honor Society, New York State Attorney General's Triple E Award, etc. All through our high school career, we had to battle with emotional and sensory struggles of autism. If not for the strong support from our school and family, we would not have been able to do this. As I am waiting to embark on the new adventure of college to be a writer, philosopher, and poet and Kashi a gluten free chef, I am hoping this article would bring more awareness about autism and open the eyes and hearts of many, for there are many Kani's and Kashi's out there waiting to be heard!!



**Kanishk Krishnan**



**Kaushik Krishnan**



## Graduating Students (High School and College)

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; listed below in the order received.

**Kaushik Krishnan**, from East Syracuse Minoa Central High School, is graduating with a Regents and Culinary Diploma. He is very talented in clay and published quite a few pieces in UNIQUE Magazine. Has been a panel member in many Autism Conferences and a strong advocate for students of all abilities. Received many awards including Attorney General's Triple E Award. He plans to attend SUNY Onondaga, majoring in Hospitality Management. He loves creating meaningful art, participating in philosophy clubs, and baking gluten free products.

**Kanishk Krishnan**, from East Syracuse Minoa Central High School, is graduating with a Regents Diploma. His poetry has been published in UNIQUE Magazine several times. Has received Golden Tassel Award and Attorney General's triple E Award. Participated in many Autism Conferences as a presenter and mentored younger students with Autism. He is planning to attend SUNY Onondaga, majoring in Creative Writing and Philosophy. He loves swimming, Philosophy, and nature.

**Aastha D Thakar** graduated from Jamesville-Dewitt High School with high honors. She was a member of National Honor Society. Aastha participated in various sports activities in school to include Track and Field and Tennis. She was in Syracuse Children's Chorus, and loves to play violin and piano. She also loves drawing and painting. Her favorite subjects are Math and Science, and is keen on becoming a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT). Aastha is a "Kishori Mandal member at the BAPS Mandir, Aastha is joining Ithaca College.

**Rati Saini** graduated from Christian Brothers Academy this year. Rati will be attending Middlebury College in Vermont.

**Rhea Saini** graduated from Christian Brothers Academy and will be starting her undergraduate studies at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

**Somil Aggarwal** graduated from Jamesville Dewitt High School, and will be going to Cornell University for undergraduate degree in Computer Science.

Somil did research on hydrogel material for biomedical applications at Stony Brook University, and also research on Structural analysis of Trust Network at Syracuse University. He also served as President of Model UN. His special interests and hobbies are--Tennis, photography, and travelling.

**Rahul Raina** received a BS (Honors) in Computer Science from Georgia Institute of Technology. At Georgia Tech, he was on the Dean's List every semester and graduated with the Highest Honor. He was a Stamps President's Scholar, which provides highest academic scholarship (full ride) to incoming freshman for all four years. This summer he is participating in Georgia Tech's Startup Launch program. Through this program, he became a cofounder of an augmented reality discovery platform that is currently working with some large outdoor venues on a pilot. In September, he will join Amazon in Seattle as a Software Development Engineer. His interests include music, playing basketball, working out and watching movies.



## Community Events

1. [Samhitha Adavikolanu's Bharatanatyam Arangetram](#) will be held on August 18th, 2018 at Chittenango High School Auditorium. She is a sophomore at FM High School. Samhitha is learning classical dance and carnatic music from Smt. Rekha Balaji from a very young age. Samhitha would like to invite the Syracuse Indian community members to join in this memorable event in her life.  
**Date:** August 18, 2018  
**Seating:** 2:45 pm  
**Venue:** Chittenango High School Auditorium, Chittenango, NY 13037  
**RSVP:** By July 28<sup>th</sup> Email: [samhi.arangetram@gmail.com](mailto:samhi.arangetram@gmail.com)



2. [AarogyaSeva](#), a Syracuse non-profit organization will be holding a health fair for underserved communities at the New York State Fair from August 22nd to September 3rd. We are looking for volunteers to help us with planning, outreach as well as volunteer at the booth on the days of the fair. We will be offering free health screenings, vision screenings, and haircuts among other things. If you are interested in volunteering please email [drdaya@aarogyaseva.org](mailto:drdaya@aarogyaseva.org). Students can receive volunteering certificate



3. [SPICMACAY](http://spicmacay.su@gmail.com) is organizing the following events at Syracuse University. Please contact [spicmacay.su@gmail.com](mailto:spicmacay.su@gmail.com) for more information.

1. September 21, 2018 (Friday): Ragas on the Sitar. Indrajit Roy-Choudhury (Sitarist).
2. October 14, 2018 (Sunday): Hindustani Vocal Concert. Aditi Upadhya

*Please contact [icrcc18@gmail.com](mailto:icrcc18@gmail.com), for inclusion of any Community News and Events in the Newsletter for circulation for the benefit of our community members*

## ICRCC Board Members (2018):

Ramana Adavikolanu, [adavikolanu@hotmail.com](mailto:adavikolanu@hotmail.com) (Website Coordinator)

Pavithra Chigateri, [pavichigateri@kinneydrugs.com](mailto:pavichigateri@kinneydrugs.com)

Pravin Gupta, [pravin.gupta@verizon.net](mailto:pravin.gupta@verizon.net) (Treasurer)

Hemant Kale, [hkale@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:hkale@twcnny.rr.com)

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

Shridevi Karikethalli, [shridilip@hotmail.com](mailto:shridilip@hotmail.com) (Newsletter Editor)

Sanjeev Kumar, [skumar@oswego.edu](mailto:skumar@oswego.edu) (Secretary)

Rama Mehrotra, [ramamehrotra@yahoo.com](mailto:ramamehrotra@yahoo.com) (website Coordinator)

Chilukuri K. Mohan, [mohan@syr.edu](mailto:mohan@syr.edu) (President)

Surabhi Raina, [sraina@syr.edu](mailto:sraina@syr.edu) (Nominations Committee)

Abraham Thomas, [abethomas101@yahoo.com](mailto:abethomas101@yahoo.com)

Falguni Vora, [frvora@yahoo.com](mailto:frvora@yahoo.com) (Vice-President)

**Finance Committee:** Pravin Gupta (Chair), Pavithra Chigateri, Rama Mehrotra, Sanjeev Kumar

**Membership Committee:** Joseph Kappil (Chair), Ramana Adavikolanu, Abraham Thomas, Pavithra Chigateri,

**Bylaws Review Committee:** Sanjeev Kumar (Chair), Rama Mehrotra, Ramana Adavikolanu

**Nominations Committee:** Surabhi Raina,

**Newsletter:** Shridevi Karikethalli (Editor), Rama Mehrotra, Hemant Kale

**Website:** Rama Mehrotra, Pavithra Chigateri

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***ICRCC held The Annual General Body Meeting on December 9, 2017, at Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville, Syracuse, NY, and the above Board Members were elected and some re-elected***

### List of Executive Board Members

Chilukuri Mohan  
Falguni Vora  
Sanjeev Kumar  
Pravin Gupta

### List of Permanent Members

Anita and Dilip Bhole  
Harinakshi and Ravi Dabir  
Neerja Vajpayee and Ajeet Gajra  
Shaila and Ramesh Gaonkar  
Harsha and Kishor Kanabar  
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



## India Independence Day Flier



**Free Admission!**

*\*Lots of Activities and Games  
for Kids and Adults*

*\*Gear up for Antaakshari*

*\*Magic Show by  
Twin Magicians*

*For more information, please contact:*

*Sanjeev Kumar  
Secretary  
skumar@oswego.edu  
315-664-2596*

*or*

*Chilukuri Mohan  
President  
ckmohan@syr.edu  
315-391-8516*



*Tokens for food  
purchase  
available at the  
event!*

**Annual  
ICRCC**

**India Day Picnic  
Sunday, August 19th 2018  
2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.**

**Location:**

**Riverview Shelter at  
Long Branch Park**

**Featuring Minar Food Truck**

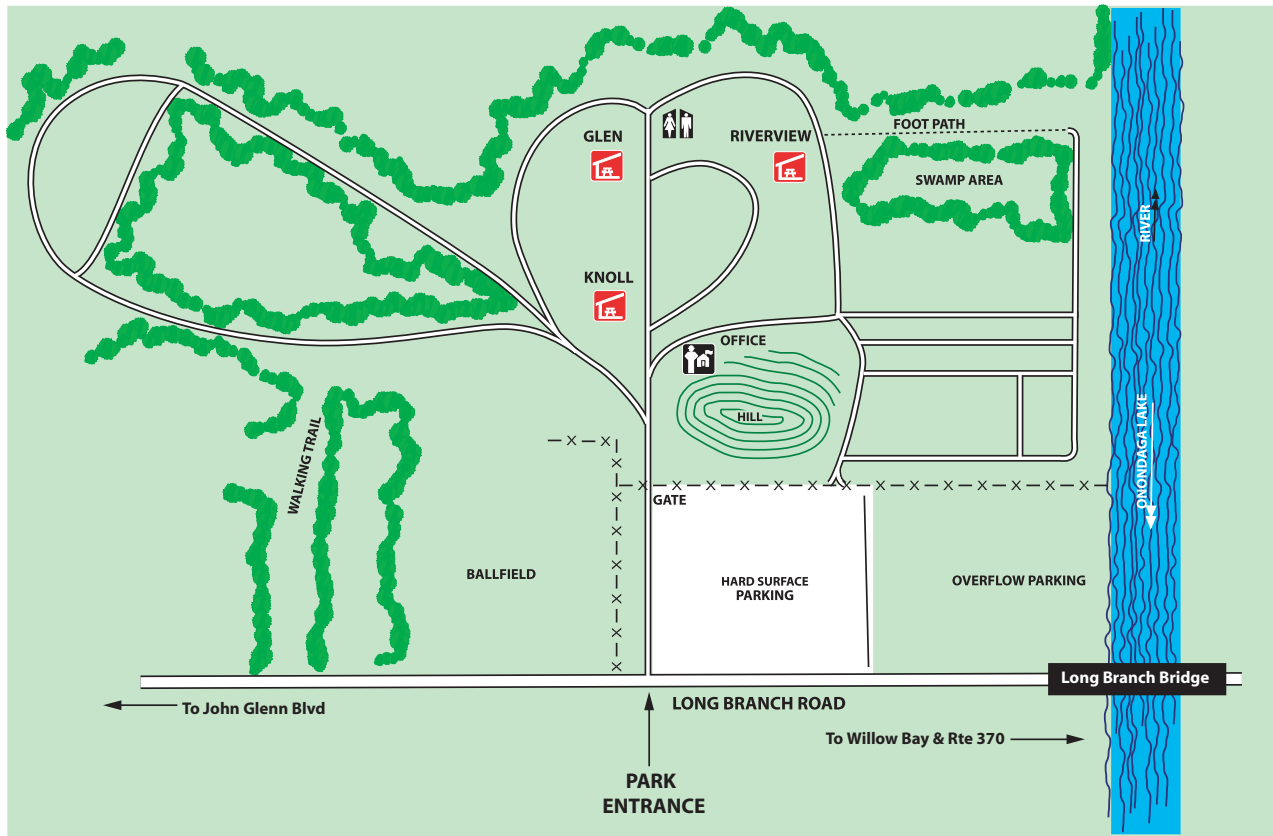


**Let us celebrate the 71<sup>st</sup> Indian Independence Day together at the  
Riverview Shelter at Lake Shore Park, Onondaga County Park.**

**See the detailed map below.**

# LONG BRANCH PARK

Part of Onondaga Lake Park, Liverpool, NY  
[www.OnondagaCountyParks.com](http://www.OnondagaCountyParks.com)



Connect with us by email at [icrcc18@gmail.com](mailto:icrcc18@gmail.com)

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