

# OUTSTANDING WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENT GALA



Presented By  
**Indian American Forum**

THURSDAY, MARCH 27  
FROM 6:30 PM TO 11:00 PM

STUART THOMAS MANOR  
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Mrs. Jessica Kalra, esq.

## PROGRAM

- 6.00PM TO 7.00PM Registration and Cocktails
- 7.00 PM TO 8.00PM Commencement of Program  
EMCEE Renne Mehrra, ITV
- LIGHTING OF LAMP Anu Gulati, Jaya Bahadkar
- WELCOME REMARKS Indu Jaiswal Chairperson
- DEVI DANCE Semi Classical performance by Sridevi Mahesh, Iniya Ramesh and Ranjani Srinivasan Choreographed by Sadhna Pranjii
- DANCE PERFORMANCE  
NARTAN RANG DANCE ACADEMY OF BHARTUYA VIDYA
- GANESH INSTRUMENTAL by Pooja Pandya, Tulsi Pandya, Shivali Devjani, Divya Patel and Chandni Patel Choreographed by Swati Vaishnav
- PRESENTATIONS OF AWARDS
- VOCAL PERFORMANCES BY Sunita Sadhnani
- 8.30PM DINNER AND DANCE
- VOTE OF THANKS Vijay Goswamy
- SPECIAL THANKS TO COORDINATORS  
Vijay Goswamy, Anu Gulati, Normal Rametra, Jaya Bahadkar, Bina Sabapathy, Dr Anila Midha, Dr Bhavani Srinivasan, Roopam Maini, Rupal Sehgal, Janaki Rao, Dr Urmilesh Arya



Fostering mutual understanding through its socio cultural activities - secular heritage and Indian values

## Message from the Chairperson

Founding Member  
Bobby Kumar Kalotee

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Mr. Niranjana Patel  
Mrs. Janaki Rao  
Mr. Anuj Rihal  
Mrs. Jessica Kalra, esq.

Today's women are playing several roles of being a professional, a housewife, a mother, a sister and of course a true friend. And across the globe, we have numerous examples of woman currently holding highest position in all aspects of Business Environment that includes Healthcare, Media, and Politics, corporate and Finance... In modern India, women have adorned high offices including that of President, Prime Minister, and Speaker of Lok Sabha and so on

March is women's History month, On Behalf of the board of Directors of Indian American Forum; I would like to welcome you to our third Outstanding Womens Achievements Gala as part of Womens History Month celebration. The Board of Directors of the Indian American Forum Inc. recognizes the contributions made by distinguished members of the Indian American Community in the Tri state area. The dedication, fortitude, and compassion of our distinguished members have been an inspiration to our community.

Congratulations to all our Honorees and Guests of Honor. My sincere thanks and appreciation for all the hard work, dedication and commitments of the coordinators of Indian American forum and Board members, supporters and sponsors, not only for this event but also for all the hard work throughout the year. We are deeply honored that you have chosen IAF as an organization worthy of your support. Without you we could not continue to offer these vital services for our seniors and other programs. I also want to thank my husband Sudhir and my whole family for their continued support.

Indu Jaiswal RDN CDN  
Chairperson



Office of the County Executive  
1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York 11501



March 27, 2014

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to join all of you who have gathered to celebrate the success of Indian American Forum on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala.

The Indian American Forum has established a distinguished record of excellence, working diligently on behalf of causes and ideals, which uphold the principles of human decency and brotherhood.

This wonderful organization is deserving and worthy of the esteem of Nassau County for their selfless service to the community, which has made a permanent and positive impact on us all.

I wish to extend hearty congratulations to this evening's honored guests, Swati Vaishnav, Sunila Tejpaul, Sunita Mukhi, Pandita Tripti Mukherjee and Dr. Chhaya Patel, and to all of you who work toward forwarding the goals of this fine organization throughout the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "E. Mangano".

Edward P. Mangano  
County Executive

# Congratulations & Best Wishes

TO

INDIAN AMERICAN FORUM

AND

ALL THE PARTICIPANTS

ON THEIR

3RD OUTSTANDING

WOMENS ACHIEVEMENT GALA

FROM

SWATI FOUNDATION

SUDESH MUKHI & DR. SUDHA MUKHI

RAHUL, DANA, NADIA AND SONIA MUKHI







## MRS. RAMGOOLAM

The current Consul General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in New York, Mrs. Ramgoolam, has had a varied career path. She was the former Minister of Public Administration in the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; former Director of Academic Studies and lecturer at the Arthur Loc Jack Graduate School of Business and a former career public officer. Prior to her ministerial portfolio, Mrs. Ramgoolam was a lecturer and consultant at the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business and a part time lecturer at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

Mrs. Ramgoolam graduated from the Mausica Teachers College, with a Teachers Diploma (1966-1968), the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Statistics with Mathematics (1976), a Post Graduate Degree in Human Resource Management (1993-1995) and an Executive Master in Business Administration (1995-1998). Mrs. Ramgoolam also holds a certificate in Guidance and Counselling (1980-1982).

Mrs. Ramgoolam's career path also spans over thirty seven years in the Public Service of Trinidad and Tobago in the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Decentralisation and the Ministry of Local Government. Positions held in the Public Service include among others Primary and Secondary School (mathematics) teacher, Guidance Counsellor, Manager Employee Assistance Programme, Senior Human Resource Officer, Director of Planning and Head of the Decentralisation Unit with responsibility for decentralising the Local Government system in Trinidad and Tobago.

Apart from her academic and public service career, Mrs. Ramgoolam served as a Director on many Government Boards, and on numerous Cabinet appointed committees including Vision 20/20, where she chaired the Committee that articulated the Vision for Trinidad and Tobago and the Committee for Regional Development and Sustainable Communities.

As a Human Resource Management Consultant, Mrs. Ramgoolam's passion is in the area of teaching, organisational restructuring and establishing Employee Assistance Programmes. She has done much consulting work throughout the English speaking Caribbean countries for Public Sector organisations, Statutory Authorities as well as Private Sector organisations - large, medium size and small.

**Congratulations  
and  
the best wishes**

to

**Pta. Tripti Mukherjee**

And

**Dr. Chhaya M. Patel**

For the outstanding women achievements award

**From:**

**Drs. Shashi and. Pushpa. Shah.**







## DR. CHHAYA M.PATEL

---

Dr. Chhaya M. Patel is currently a practicing Neonatologist at Woodhull Hospital in Brooklyn, NY. Born in Uganda, Dr. Patel moved to India at the age of 5. She completed her medical training at Lady Harding Medical School in New Delhi. Following her graduation in 1973, she relocated to Leicester, England where she worked as a senior house officer. In 1978, Dr. Patel moved to New York to join her husband, where she subsequently completed her training in Pediatrics at Elmhurst General Hospital in Queens, NY. She has two children, a son and a daughter, both of whom reside in Queens, NY.

In addition to maintaining her clinical practice in New York and raising two successful children, in 1995, Dr. Patel and her husband, along with a small group of close friends, notably Dr. Surekha M. Patel and her husband, created Friends of ARCH, a nonprofit charitable organization, in support of Action Research in Community Health & Development (ARCH), a non-governmental organization based in rural southeastern Gujarat. Originally formed in the early 1980s as a small community health program designed to provide basic preventative, curative and maternal health services to tribal populations, ARCH has grown in the last two decades, with substantial support from Friends of Arch and its contributors, into a significant health and community organization with multiple locations and a far broader mission than originally anticipated.

Through its yearly fundraising program, Friends of Arch have raised thousands of dollars in support of ARCH, increased awareness about the struggles of tribal populations in rural Gujarat, and made enormous contributions to the wellbeing of extremely underserved populations in India. Dr. Patel has remained committed to these goals since the inception of Friends of ARCH and continues to devote many hours to the success of this organization and ARCH more generally.

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*Congratulations*

Sunila Tejpaul

Thank you for your  
passionate commitment to  
improving the lives of  
children

The Board and Staff of  
The Child Center of NY



## SUNILA TEJPAUL

Upon arrival in the US, Sunila Tejpaal understood that having a Master's in English Literature alone was not sufficient to remain in the field of Education. In the early days in NY her husband began a contracting business, while Sunila continued to work and complete the Double Masters and accepting a teaching position in Forest Hills. Two years into her tenure, the young couple purchased the very same school which had an attendance of 25 children. Sunila Tejpaal has never looked back since that day. Her project of love and passion to nurture and teach, bloomed from 25 to 150 students where she on her own decided to curtail new admissions to better foster an environment of learning for all. Today the Forest Hills Montessori School is a premier school in the Queens, where Sunila is the Principal and commandeers full operations from enrollment to graduation. The school boasts a waiting list of students for over the last 30 years. Her students come from far & near. Most parents can't thank her enough for the results evident to them, especially when students graduate two grades above level into the other competitive schools for higher learning.

Delivering consistency in academic excellence, the Board of Education often requests permission to observe the prime factors that give her students at Montessori the edge. The Educational Community of Queens often refers to Sunila as a "Legend".

Her school boasts of graduates from Ivy League colleges, TV celebrities, & a recent winner of the National Spelling Bee contest. Her love & passion for youngsters to succeed does not stop at the doorstep of the school. She serves on the Board of Child Center of NY for over the past 15 years, helping 18 thousand most venerable children of the NY Tri-State area.

It is no surprise that Cranes magazine has recognized her as a successful immigrant woman with the perseverance, determination and attention to detail that rivals any top business individual today. Her business is to foster success for the coming generations where education is the cornerstone of opportunity for our youth.



**The Staff and Students**

of

**Forest Hills Montessori School**

*Congratulate and Salute*

**Sunila Tejpal**

For

*Her Leadership and Nurturing for*

*Future generations*

**Forest Hills Montessori School**

**67-04 Austin Street**

**Forest Hills, NY 11375**

**718 275-0173**

**[fhmontessorischool@verizon.net](mailto:fhmontessorischool@verizon.net)**

**[www.fhmontessorischool.com](http://www.fhmontessorischool.com)**



## SUNITA S. MUKHI

Sunita S. Mukhi is a theater/performance artist, writer, cultural producer and an interdisciplinary performance scholar. She has performed, directed and choreographed in university, community, professional theatrical, television and film productions in Manila, United States, Mexico and Singapore. She writes poetry, stories, monologues and performs these as part of her own self-directed and produced productions. These performance works are on sexuality, women's power, the slipperiness of identity and other yearnings such as *It's a Drag Being an Indian Woman* and *Cornucopia*.

As the pioneering Director of the Charles B. Wang Center's Asian/American Programming at the State University of New York in Stony Brook, Sunita S. Mukhi produced innovative programming in light of promoting a multi-faceted, intellectually sound and humane understanding of Asianness. She presented artists of international caliber

For Stony Brook University's Asian and Asian American Studies Department and Center for India Studies, she developed courses on Indian Cinema(s) and Indian Culture, Contemporary Performance and Film in the South Asian American Communities, Cultures of the South Asian Diaspora, Asian American Contemporary Performance, and Asian American Film and Society. For the study abroad program in Bangalore (2006 to 2008), she acted as assistant director and designed and taught two courses: *Experiencing Contemporary India* and *Contemporary Performance in India*.

She conceptualizes, presides over, participates in, and moderates numerous panel discussions, and gives lectures and addresses on topics ranging from identity and the politics of representation, performativity, arts, and the South Asian diaspora. She has appeared as a discussant and moderator in numerous episodes of the public television series *Asian America* and *Asian Indian Immigrant Experience*.

She received her Ph.D. in Performance Studies at New York University. Her early education was from St. Scholastica's College and De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines. A product of the Indian, Filipino and Sindhi diasporas, she was born and bred in Manila, Philippines, in a Sindhi Hindu household which also worshipped Jesus, Mary, Guru Nanak and the Sufi saints. She now thrives in the cosmopolitan megalopolis of New York City.

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO  
ALL HONOREES

यत्र नार्यस्तु पूज्यन्ते रमन्ते तत्र देवताः ।

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## SWATI VAISHNAV

Swati Vaishnav is actively involved with various community organizations for the past 30yrs. She runs her own dance academy "Nartanrang Dance Academy of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan" under the auspices of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan an institute of Indian culture. She has been actively involved with BVB since its inception for the past 30 Years, and currently serves on the Board of Directors. She has helped many non profit and charitable organizations like Share and Care Foundations, Childrens Hope India, AIA, BAPS and more. Her disciples from the dance schools have performed at various prestigious venues such as United nations for Unicef Charity, Museum of Natural History, Town Hall NY, and Madison Square Garden and Citi Hall

She has worked at senior management level with fortune 500 companies. She is a firm believer of strong community unity and firmly believes in giving it back to the community, And getting actively involved with philanthropic, non profit organizations for fund raising events.

She has been honored with proclamations from Nassau County, Town of Hempstead /city of NY and Jackson Heights Merchants Association.





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## PTA. TRIPTI MUKHERJEE

Pta. Tripti Mukherjee Illustrious Classical Vocalist And An Exponent of Mewati Gharana is widely acclaimed for her creative brilliance, purity of swar, soulful compositions and mellifluous divine voice. Pta. Tripti's vocal renditions are characterized are defined by delicate, refined and intricate qualities which she renders with a tremendous depth, power and conviction and this is her unique forte.

Pta. Tripti Mukerjee is the only Indian Musician who has had the unparalleled distinction of performing at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in India and at the white house in the USA. In 2007, she was invited to the White House to perform during the presidency of George W. Bush, making her the first Indian musician to perform at the White House.

Tirpit's major awards include the Lalit Kala Sangeet Ratna Award, the Amir Khan memorial Award, the Pandit Jasraj Gaurav Puraskar Award from the University of Karnatak, Chhandayan Jyotsana Award and the Acharya Shiromani award from the music students of USA. India Association of Long Island and NY State Assembly have honored her for her outstanding contribution and noble services to the community. She has performed worldwide. She has performed in a number of vocal music concerts. She has also excelled in the vocal singing for the scriptures.

In conclusion I would like to add that Pta. Tripti Mukerjee is a unique vocalist and one could run out of words to praise her vocal music talents.



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**STEVE ISRAEL**  
Third District, New York

March 27, 2013

**On the Occasion of the Indian American Forum's  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala**

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Indian American Forum's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala. I would like to take this opportunity to show my appreciation for your outstanding commitment to Long Island's Indian community and congratulate you on the success of tonight's event.

The Indian American Forum strives to promote, share and celebrate the culture of India through programs and educational activities. It has played a crucial role in promoting the rich heritage of the Indian subcontinent to Indians and the larger Long Island community. Your passion to promote Indian traditions greatly strengthens Long Island's cultural diversity.

I would like to acknowledge the women who have contributed to the success of the Indian American Forum. Congratulations to tonight's honored guests: Sunila Tejpal, Swati Vaishnav, Pandita Tripti Mukherjee, Dr. Chhaya Patel, Sunita Mukhi, Consul General of Trinidad and Tobago Hon. Rudrawatee Nan Ramgoolam, and Hon. Linda Mangano. Their abilities and leadership, along with their dedication to the Indian American Forum help improve our communities for all Long Islanders.

Once again, congratulations to tonight's honorees and to all of the members of the Indian American Forum. Please do not hesitate to contact my District Office, if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Israel".

**STEVE ISRAEL**  
Member of Congress

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the honorees*

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Today I am humbled and proud to write this message in the celebration of Women History Month.

Even though I believe in my opinion, every day should be woman's day but I am delighted to join all of you in celebrating this joyous occasion that you have gathered here tonight to honor such distinguished ladies. Since as a young child, how much I learn from my mom, my sisters and now my wife and my daughters. I would not be the person, who I am today without them and their advice.

I would like to congratulate the Indian American Forum and their chairwoman Indu Jaiswal for the good work being done for many years.

My heartiest congratulation to this evenings honorees; Sunita Mukhi, Pandita Tripti Mukherjee, Swati Vaishnav, Sunila Tejpaul, Dr. Chhaya Patel and our honored guest my friend Linda Mangano and honorable Consul General Rudrawatee Nan Ramgoolam.

Have a great night, be home safe.

Your friend

Bobby K. Kalottee

International Chairman Friends for Good Health



United States House of Representatives

CAROLYN MCCARTHY  
Fourth District  
New York

March 27, 2014

*Dear Friends,*

*Please accept my warmest greetings as the Indian American Forum gathers to celebrate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala.*

*In tribute to Women's History Month, the Indian American Forum has recognized several women for their achievements and contributions to the community. These women have led successful careers in their professions, and I am delighted to be honoring them this evening.*

*Congratulations to Sunita Tejpal, Founder of Forest Hills Montessori School; Swati Vaishnav, Founder of Nartan Rand Dance Academy and Member of Board of Directors, Bharatiya Vidya: Pandita Tripti Mukherjee, Illustrious Indian Classical Music Vocalist, Pandit Jasraj Music Institute; Dr. Chhaya Patel, Founding Member of ARCH Foundation Action Research in Community Health and Development; and Sunita Mukhi, Cultural Producer and Interdisciplinary Performance Scholar. In addition, I would like to extend my congratulations to this year's guests, Honorable Rudrawatee Nan Ramgoolam, Consul General of Trinidad and Tobago, and Linda Mangano.*

*I wish you all an enjoyable evening and best wishes for continuing success.*

*Sincerely,*

*Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress*





## LINDA MANGANO

Linda Mangano was born and raised in Bethpage, New York and presently is the Editor and Publisher of the Bethpage Tribune, a local newspaper in Bethpage in addition to being a freelance graphic artist. She is also the Vice President of the Bethpage Chamber of Commerce as well as the Mentor and Advisor for the Bethpage Chamber of Commerce Junior League. She is a member of the Bethpage Kiwanis Club and an honorary Rotarian for many years. Linda serves on the Hofstra University Parent's Council and is involved with the Bethpage Federal Credit Union Turkey Drop, American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Bethpage Chamber of Commerce 9/11 Memorial, Operation Eagle Downtown Revitalization Project, Long Island Arts Council and the Coalition Against Child Abuse and Neglect. She received numerous awards for her civic involvement and dedication to children including the American Legion Gold Citizenship Medal, Nassau Council of Chambers Small Business Person of the Year, Handz Up for Kidz Award, Woman of the Year Award Nassau Federation of Republican Women, Nassau Region PTA Honorary Life Membership, Nassau Region PTA Jenkins Award, Long Island Breakfast Club Italian Heritage Award, NAWBO Woman of the Year Award and winner of the 2012 CCAN Dancing for the Kids. This year she has been extremely involved in raising money for the Games for the Physically Challenged as well as the Nassau Hurricane Relief Fund.

As the wife of Nassau County Executive, Ed Mangano, Linda is always on the go and even though she has many more commitments and obligations as Nassau County's First Lady, her dedication to children and her community can serve as an inspiration to others. In addition to her role as a publisher and community leader, she will admit that her favorite role is that of "mom" to her two sons Sal and Alex, and two adorable puppies Max and Rocky.