



*Presents*

**NINTH OUTSTANDING  
WOMEN'S  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS GALA**

**MARCH 8, 2020**

*Akbar Restaurant  
2 South Street, Garden City NY*

## Honorable Judge Elizabeth Pessala

Pessala family is one of the extraordinary families in America that is filled with unique and inspiring achievements at both generations. Coming to America as an immigrant and by dint of hard work taking positions of leadership in judiciary and children going to Ivy League universities and choosing professions of their choice to realize American dreams.

Hon Judge Elizabeth Pessala was the first Indian American to become a Judge in the State of New York several decades ago after serving as a court clerk in the largest Town of Hempstead in America. We met Hon Judge Elizabeth Pessala in 1986 when a friend of mine who was a leader of Tri State umbrella organization Federation of Indian Associations had invited Hon. Tom Gulotta to celebrate India's Independence Day at the old Akbar restaurant in Roosevelt Field and a Chief Minister from Andhra Pradesh, one of the largest State in India, was here to unfurl the Indian flag to celebrate the India's struggle for freedom after centuries of colonization by British. Hon Tom Gulotta the new Nassau County Executive sent Ms. Elizabeth D. Pessala to represent him. She declared through a Proclamation August 15, 1986 as India's Independence Day in Nassau County of 1.35 million residents and offered a hand of friendship to all Indians in Nassau County. This had happened first time in the sixth richest County of America which was bigger than twenty States of America at that time. We all Indians were very proud of Ms. Elizabeth Dalal Pessala for making that important bridge between the Indian Community and the County Executive which resulted in many other cooperative endeavors later on and had much beneficial effects for the community for a long period to com. Ms Pessala took that leadership role when no one was on the horizon and moved on to provide leadership in judiciary, government and Civic organizations.

We also very fondly remember Hon Judge John Pessala and his many great contributions to the County and community and Town of Hempstead where he became Special Advisor to Hon Tom Gulotta for many decades to come and to make Nassau County as one of the greatest counties of America with a high quality of life, hardly any increase in taxes for sixteen years and wonderful parks, beaches and roads. Police Commissioner Don Kane also reported to Judge Pessala and worked as a wonderful team to control crimes in Nassau County. Later on Hon Judge John Pessala joined as a Criminal Court Judge before winning elections to be a Family Court Judge and finally as a Chief Judge.

What Judge Elizabeth Pessala and Judge John Pessala have done for building the image of Indian American community on Long Island with the support of Hon Tom Gulotta, no one has been able to do so much over the decades and we convey our highest gratitude and congratulations for today's honor as an outstanding Woman of America.

Dr. Parveen & Mrs. Usha Chopra  
Past presidents of IALI  
Federation of Indian Assocc  
Ex Chair of Human Rights Commission and Planning Commissioner

*Words from the Gala Chair.....*

## **Shammi Singh**



On behalf of the Indian American Forum board of trustees, I would like to welcome you to the **Ninth** annual Outstanding Women's Achievement Gala and thank you for your continuing support of our mission. I know I speak for everyone on our board in saying that we take great pride in honoring the women here today. We recognize the enormous contributions and achievements made by them and are extremely pleased to acknowledge these outstanding women from our community. IAF will continue to empower women, as well as, find collaborative ways to nurture the Indian culture and heritage in America. We are all ambassadors of humanity and understanding and we hope to create more of a positive influence amongst our growing and diverse local communities.

Thank you all again for your support

*Sincerely,  
Shammi Singh  
Gala Chair  
Indian American Forum*

भारत का प्रधान कौंसल  
न्यू यार्क



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA  
NEW YORK



February 27, 2020

MESSAGE

On the occasion of National Women's History Month I convey my greetings to the members of Indian American Forum (IAF). I am happy to note that IAF is organizing 9<sup>th</sup> Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala on March 8, 2020 in New York as part of National Women's History Month. Women's History Month gives us an opportunity to celebrate womanhood, their social, cultural, political, economic achievements and their significant contributions to society, while laying importance on gender equality.

Indian American Forum Inc. (IAF) is a non for profit organization of Asian Indians in America established in 1997, to promote the cultural, secular heritage and values of India as well as the furtherance of friendship and understanding with people of other cultural backgrounds.

Once again I wish you all the best for the successful organization of 9<sup>th</sup> Outstanding Women Awards Gala and I am confident that above and beyond celebrating Women's History Month, Indian American Forum will continuously work towards empowerment of women in all spheres of life towards achieving the goal of equal rights for women.

संदीप चक्रवर्ती  
Sandeep Chakravorty  
भारत का प्रधान कौंसल  
Consul General of India  
न्यू यॉर्क  
New York

3 East 64<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10065 (USA)

**Tel: General** (212) 774-0600 • **Consul General's Office** (212) 774-0622/0621 • **Fax:** (212) 988-6423

**Email:** cg.newyork@mea.gov.in, cgoffice.newyork@mea.gov.in

**Website:** www.indiainnewyork.gov.in



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

### **Founding Member**

Bobby Kumar Kalotee

### **Board of Trustees**

Azad Anand, MD

Urmillesh Arya MD

Parveen Chopra, PhD

Mr. Animesh Goenka

Ved Kawatra PhD

Bhupendra R. Patel, MD

Mr. Surinder Rametra

Mr. Mohinder S Taneja

### **Chairperson**

Indu Jaiswal, RDN

### **Treasurer**

Vijay Goswamy

### **Executive Members**

Mrs. Jaya Bahadkar

Mrs. Anu Gulati

Mrs. Jyoti Gupta

Dr Meena Jaiswal

Mrs. Inesha Singh Joneja

Mrs. Chanbir Kaur

Mrs. Jessica Kalra Esq.

Mrs. Beena Kothari

Mrs. Nilima Madan

Mrs. Roopam Maini

Dr Anila Midha

Mr. Niranjana Patel

Mrs. Nirmala Rametra

Mr. Anuj Rihal.

Mrs. Bina Sabapathy

Mrs. Shammi Singh

Mrs. Rohini Singh

Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan

Mr Sunny Thakkar

### **Message from the Chairperson**

**Women's history Month had its origin as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Month Week". Each year we honor many trailblazers whose courage and conviction had enabled women everywhere to attain new heights. Today we will highlight the phenomenal achievements of women throughout our history, while recognizing significant challenges they overcame.**

**Today's women are playing several roles of being a professional, housewife, mother and a sister. Across the globe, we have numerous examples of woman holding highest position in business environment which includes Healthcare, Media, Politics, Corporate and Finance. In modern India, women have adorned high offices including that of President, Prime Minister, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Defense Minister, and making a mark on space.**

**On Behalf of the Board of Trustees and Members of Indian American Forum, I would like to welcome you to our Ninth Outstanding Women's Achievements Gala as part of Women's History Month celebration. We want to recognize the contributions made by distinguished members of the Indian American Community in the Tri-State area. The dedication, fortitude, and compassion of our distinguished Honorees and guests have been an inspiration to our community.**

**Congratulations to all our Honorees and Guests of Honor. My sincere thanks and appreciation to the team, dedication and commitment of the coordinators of Indian American forum, Board members, supporters and sponsors, not only for this event but throughout the year. We are deeply honored that you have chosen IAF as an organization worthy of your support. Without your support, 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**

Indian American Forum Inc. Non-For-Profit 501(c) (3) Organization [www.IndianAmericanForum.com](http://www.IndianAmericanForum.com)

5 Bayberry Avenue, Garden City, NY 11530 info@indianamericanforum.com Tel: (516) 248-7241 Fax: (516)248-3944

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

CONGRATULATIONS  
DR. PRACHI DUA  
WE ARE PROUD OF  
YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS  
Best Wishes

Drs Asha, Rakesh & Karan Dua



# HONOREES



## Prachi Dua

After graduating from high school, Prachi went to Brooklyn College where she received a BS degree with honors in psychology. She was on the Deans Honor List every semester and was accepted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. She then went to SUNY Downstate to obtain her MD and Masters in Public Health Degree. During medical school, she served as president of the ophthalmology club, chair of research and development committee at Brooklyn Free Clinic, and participated in eye mission trips to

India and numerous glaucoma screenings within the community. She received an award as a medical student for excellence in ophthalmology and John J. Walsh award for extraordinary leadership in and commitment to improving the health of individuals and communities.

She then completed her residency in ophthalmology at SUNY Downstate and completed a Cornea fellowship at Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital. She joined Northwell Faculty Practice full time in 2018 and has two office locations, at Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital and Great Neck. She works closely with the residents and sees patients at North Shore Hospital Manhasset and LIJ.

She served as the president of the Medical Student, Resident, Fellow Chapter for national AAPI in 2018-2019 and is now chair of academic affairs for national National and young physician section for local AAPIQLI chapter this year. During her term as president, she organized health fairs and research poster competitions as well as mentorship program for medical students and residents.

"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's  
courage." - Anais Nin

***Congratulations to  
Dr. Saroj Shah  
and all the  
honorees!***

***You are our  
inspiration.***

Love Drs. I.C., Shefali, and  
Shetal Shah



# HONOREES

## Dr. Saroj Shah



Dr. Saroj Shah is a board-certified Ob/Gyn who practiced in the New York area for over 35 years. She was born in Mumbai, India. The daughter of a distinguished surgeon, she was raised with the mission of service.

From the beginning, Dr. Shah strove for excellence. She graduated in the top ten high school students in the entire state of Bombay. In medical school, she was the only female to receive the scholar-athlete award. Dr. Shah was honored at the B.J. Medical College's centennial commemoration.

Dr. Shah pursued private practice and along with it, she continued to provide hospital-based healthcare to the underserved at Nassau County Medical Center's clinics. For over 25 years she imparted knowledge to the next generation of Ob/Gyn residents. But her love for education went well beyond the medical arena. Fifteen years ago, she worked tirelessly to build a high school in Vadu, Gujarat. Today the school serves over 750 boys and girls ensuring that higher education is an option for those in remote sections of the state.

She continues her efforts to help Indians in healthcare and education through her work with the Aarti Foundation, a U.S. based non-profit organization, where she serves as a senior advisor.

Dr. Shah has been a leader in the Indian community, promoting culture and women's empowerment. She established and served as President of the Women's Wing of Gujarati Samaj for more than a decade. Dr. Shah spearheaded an educational program aimed to ensure that women had all the tools they needed to maneuver successfully in America.

Turning her eye to the elderly, she and her husband, Dr. I. C. Shah, conceived the idea of providing culturally sensitive care to our senior population. Along with Dr. Paredshi and committee members, she was able to establish the Indian Unit at Parker Jewish Institute. This unit helps provide subacute and chronic care in a culturally encompassing way. This is the first of its kind in the Queens-Long Island area. The unit is fully functional and serves over 40 residents at the present time.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## Isma H Chaudhry, M.D., MPH.



Dr. Isma Chaudhry trained in Internal Medicine from Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York, and did her Master's in Public Health from Hofstra University. Dr. Chaudhry is an Associate Director at the Metropolitan Center for Sleep Medicine in New York, and an Associate Professor (adjunct) in the Department of Health Sciences at Hofstra University. She has served as the Director of Graduate PH programs and currently is the Executive in Residence of the Graduate Public Health Programs at Hofstra University.

Dr. Chaudhry is an Interfaith advocate and a champion for the rights of women. She has been actively involved with the Islamic Center of Long Island for over 20 years, and in 2015 was elected the Center's first female president, and after serving the community for three years in 2018 was elected as the first female chairperson of the center's board of Trustees. Because of her advocacy and diversity initiatives, she has been named among the 50 Most Influential Long Islanders, five years in a row (Long Island Power 50, 2016 – 2020). She has been inducted in the North Hempstead 23 Annual Women's Roll of Honor list, 2016, and "Make a Difference Award" Town of Hempstead 2017. She has been honored by the National Center for Suburban Studies, Hofstra University 2017, and by CARECEN for her work in building bridges of understanding and respect in an ethnically diverse world.

In addition to her advocacy, she has extensive public appearances and speaking engagements to her credit, including United Nations Conference on Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Protect, The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, United States Institute of Peace @ Myanmar: Healthcare Challenges, United Nations conference on Islamophobia, Healthcare and Building Community Coalitions @ Engagement Institute.

In addition to her dedication to the Islamic Center of Long Island, Isma has worked tirelessly with other organizations to support and serve diverse communities of Long Island and beyond. She is the co-chair of the Board of Trustees for Long Island WINS, an immigration advocacy organization, Chair Nassau County Asian American Council, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Interfaith Alliance of Long Island; she also serves on the board of Nassau County Minority Affairs Council, Board of Ethics Town of North Hempstead and New York State Governor's Interfaith Council.

Her interests of study in Public Health are Healthcare Infrastructure in developing countries, Ethnic Barriers to Primary Care, Minority, and Immigrant Health. Dr. Chaudhry serves as a Diversity and Cultural Competency Consultant in various Healthcare, Private, and nonprofit organizations. She lives in Manhasset, New York with her husband and two children.



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

*March 8, 2020*

*Dear Friends,*

*Please accept my warmest greetings and congratulations as you gather this evening to honor The Indian American Forum Ninth Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala and congratulate this year's outstanding honorees. This evening we pay tribute to The Indian American Forum and these remarkable and deserving individuals.*

*Tonight, we celebrate them for their tremendous efforts on behalf of Asian Indians in America to promote the cultural, secular heritage and values of India as well as the furtherance of friendship and understanding with people of other cultural backgrounds. Throughout Long Island they have worked diligently to make a difference in the lives of others through their outstanding efforts and contributions.*

*The Indian American Forum Ninth Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala is truly an evening to celebrate women of character, courage, commitment, and accomplishments. They are deserving and worthy of the esteem of Nassau County for their selfless service as they continue to make a permanent and positive impact on us all.*

*I would like to extend my congratulations, appreciation, and recognition in acknowledging tonight's honorees. Dr. Saroj I. Shah, Mrs. Sabina Himani, The Honorable Judge Elizabeth Pessala, and Dr. Francesca Cassio. They have contributed so much to the lives of others and play a significant role in Nassau County and throughout Long Island.*

*I congratulate the Indian American Forum and this evening's honorees for their selfless dedication and unwavering commitment to the entire community at large. They truly make our world a better place.*

*Sincerely,*

*Laura Curran  
County Executive*



American Association Of Physicians Of Indian Origin Of  
Queens and Long Island

*Congratulate*

**Prachi Dua M.D.**

Ophthalmologist at Northwell Health  
and

All the honorees and the IAF team

We are proud of your achievements and  
community service.

*Raj Bhayani M.D. President*

*on behalf of the EC and BOT*

*Town Board*  
VIVIANA L. RUSSELL  
PETER J. ZUCKERMAN  
ANGELO P. FERRARA  
VERONICA LURVEY  
LEE R. SEEMAN  
MARIANN DALIMONTE

*Town Clerk*  
WAYNE H. WINK, JR.

*Receiver of Taxes*  
CHARLES BERMAN

## TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR



TOWN HALL  
220 PLANDOME ROAD  
MANHASSET, NY 11030  
(516) 869-6311  
FAX (516) 627-4204



*Supervisor*  
JUDI BOSWORTH

March 8, 2020

Indian American Forum Inc.  
5 Bayberry Avenue  
Garden City, NY 11530

Dear Friends at the India American Forum:

I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the occasion of the Indian American Forum's (IAF) 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala. The IAF is an exceptional organization. I appreciate your unwavering commitment to help promote the culture, heritage, and values of India through socio-cultural activities. Your organization continues to educate our residents about the important role the Indian-American community plays in North Hempstead and across Long Island.

I appreciate that the IAF honors Indian-American women for their dedication to their respective careers and their dedication to the Indian American community. This year, I would like to congratulate: Dr. Francesca Cassio, Dr. Saroj Shah, Elizabeth Pessala, Dr. Prachi Dua and Aashmeeta Yogiraj for being honored at tonight's Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala.

Thank you to the entire board of trustees, executive members of the IAF, and all our friends here tonight for supporting women's achievement and equality, and for continuing to promote Indian culture and tradition throughout the Town of North Hempstead and beyond.

Congratulations again to tonight's honorees. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judi Bosworth".

Judi Bosworth  
North Hempstead Town Supervisor



CONGRATULATIONS

and Best wishes to

All the Honorees

Dr. Bhupendra & Indira Patel



# HONOREES

## Elizabeth D. Pessala



Elizabeth Dalal Pessala grew up in Rockville Centre and since her marriage in 1977 has been a resident of Westbury. She has 2 children and 2 grandchildren; her Indian Father Vasantkumar Dalal and mother are living in Florida.

She hold degrees in Biology, Law, and Information Science. She started her work career in Botanical Sciences at the New York Botanical Garden and after law school in 1981 has worked in the New York State Court System as a Law Clerk Positions to District, County and Supreme Court Judges and hearing Officer for Nassau County Human Rights cases. Since 1995 she continues to serve the Village of Westbury as Associate Village Justice, and was elected the first women President of the Village Judges Association. She took a break from the courts to serve as a Deputy County Executive as well as a member of the Town of Hempstead Industrial Development Agency. In addition to her current judicial assignments , she has returned to science as an Archivist at the Cold Spring Harbor Lab.

Elizabeth has been a member of various Boards of not-for-profit organizations continually since 1987 and continues to be involved in Indian community including as recipient of a Shanti Fund Community Service Award, the Indian Lawyers Association Community Service award and the Kerala Center Distinguished Citizen award.

# CONGRATULATIONS

DR. FRANCESCA CASSIO  
AND  
ALL THE WELL DESERVING HONOREES  
OF  
OUTSTANDING WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

WE WISH YOU ALL CONTINUED SUCCESS!

HARRY & INDIE SINGH



# HONOREES

## Prof. Francesca Cassio



Francesca Cassio is Professor of Music at Hofstra University (NY) and since 2011 holds the Sardarni Harbans Kaur Chair in Sikh Musicology, the first academic position of its kind in the United States.

M.A. and PhD in Ethnomusicology from the University of Rome, in affiliation with the Benares Hindu University, Dr. Cassio has conducted extensive

research in India, where she lived for several years and was trained in classical vocal music. Senior disciple of Bhai Baldeep Singh, the 13th generation exponent of Gurbani kirtan, Dr. Cassio specialized on the performance and the study of Sikh liturgical repertoires. Prior to joining Hofstra, Dr. Cassio was lecturer of Ethnomusicology and Indian vocal music at the University of Trento, Conservatory of Vicenza, Conservatory of Adria (Italy), and Visiting Professor at Viswa Bharati University (Shantiniketan, India).

Dr. Cassio is the author of a monograph on dhrupad, and is currently working on a volume that explores the history and the practice of Gurbani kirtan. Her essays are published (in Italian, French and English) in edited volumes and international academic journals, and her research interests range from music history to religious and gender studies, with focus on postcolonial and decolonial approaches. Advocate for gender equality, in 2015, Dr. Cassio was awarded the Stessin Prize with the article “Female Voices in Gurbani Sangit and the Role of the Media in Promoting Female Kirtanie” (Routledge). Accomplished scholar, dedicated teacher, and kirtan singer, over almost thirty years in the field, Dr. Cassio taught, lectured and performed in India, Bangladesh, Europe, Canada and the United States.

# Congratulations to the Honorees

Dr. Saroj I. Shah

Aashmeeta Yogiraj

Prachi Dua, MD, MPH

Honorable Judge Elizabeth Pessala

Dr. Francesca Cassio

Isma H Chaudhry, M.D., MPH.

from

Bobby Kumar Kalotee

# HONOREES

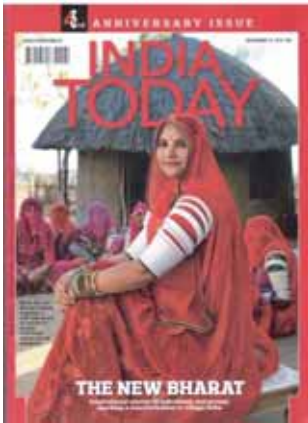


## Aashmeeta Yogiraj

With a multifaceted background in information science, political science, and journalism, Aashmeeta Yogiraj brings digital literacy to a traditional broadcasting environment in her role as Director of Marketing at Jus Broadcasting Corp. In her current role, Yogiraj exercises research heavy methods to develop content for the company's main networks, Jus

Punjabi TV & Jus Hindi TV. Having grown up in the age of Google and with an in-depth understanding of various social media platforms, SEO practices, and data analytics, Yogiraj is able to leverage content to efficiently market the Jus brand, focusing on both audience retention and developing new viewership bases.

Yogiraj holds a Masters of Science from Syracuse University and received her Bachelors from SUNY Stony Brook.



## Ruma Devi

RUMA DEVI of Barmer, Rajasthan, India

Ruma Devi is an inspirational individual who has transformed the lives of thousands despite having no formal education and coming from a remote desert town in India with practically no financial means. Instead, what she had was courage and faith in herself. Through her hard work and vision, she created an enterprise involving more than 20,000 women to produce

and market traditional fabrics and handicrafts to top designers around the world.

A girl with a dream in her eyes and a needle in her hand, she stepped out of her house to provide others a better tomorrow. Coming from a conservative and financially limited background, she created a company that works towards the empowerment of women in the Barmer area of Rajasthan. She has trained more than 20,000 women artisans from 75 villages in the Thar region of Rajasthan, and she is designing contemporary furnishings and apparel that appeal to modern tastes internationally. As the President of Gramin Vikas Chetna Sansthan(GVCS) she has brought international fashion designers to the door step of rural women artisans.

She has received many recognitions and awards all around the world including Nari Shakti Puraskar from The President of India and Kon Banega Crorepati from Mr Amitabh Bachchan. It is rightly said that simply higher degrees are not the only key for success, but skills combined with vision and confidence can bring one to greater heights. Her story is an inspiration for others to stand up on their feet.

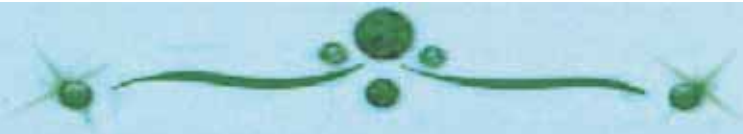
Congratulations to  
**INDIAN AMERICAN FORUM**  
for organizing the  
**9th Outstanding Women's Achievement Awards Gala**



We salute outstanding women like Ruma Devi from Barmer, Rajasthan, India, who is promoting traditional Indian arts and crafts and has given work to thousands of women in these far-fetched villages.

Best wishes to all the Honorees!

Animesh Goenka & Anupam Goenka



*Congratulations*  
*to*  
*all the Honorees*  
*on their*  
*remarkable accomplishments*  
*and Indian American Forum*  
*for the*  
*Women's Achievement gala*



Dr. Azad Anand

Dr. Nutan Anand

Board of Trustees  
Indian American Forum

JOSEPH SALADINO  
SUPERVISOR



OFFICE OF THE TOWN SUPERVISOR  
54 AUDREY AVENUE  
OYSTER BAY, NEW YORK 11771  
516-624-6350

March 8, 2020

Dear Friends,

On this special occasion of the Indian American Forum's Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala, it is with great pleasure that my colleagues on the Oyster Bay Town Board and I congratulate tonight's special honorees and extend our appreciation to the entire organization for your amazing work. Tonight's Gala coincides with National Women's History Month and celebrates women of character, courage, commitment and accomplishments. It also honors outstanding women for their distinguished community service and for all of their tireless support and advocacy on behalf of the Indian American community of Long Island. Tonight's distinguished honorees have dedicated themselves to uplifting the community of Asian Indians in America and their efforts have promoted the cultural, secular heritage and values of India as well as furthered friendship and understanding with people of other cultural backgrounds. You are all pillars in our community and true role models for others who will one day follow in your footsteps.

An organization is only as strong as its members and supporters. This explains the extraordinary strength of the Indian American Forum. Each member of this incredible organization deserve tremendous credit, for it is community institutions such as yours that make the Town of Oyster Bay a great place to live, work and raise a family. My colleagues on the Oyster Bay Town Board and I wish today's honorees and everyone at the Indian American Forum a very happy and joyous Gala and we look forward to all of your incredible achievements in the future.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph J. Saladino".

Joseph Saladino  
Town Supervisor



# **VASS**

## **PIPE & STEEL CO., INC.**

- **America's Industry Leader in Wholesale Distribution of Carbon Steel Pipe**
- **Premium Import and Domestic Steel In Seamless, ERW and DSAW (API, ASTM, A53)**
- **One Call, One Source, One Solution**

Corporate Headquarters - Mineola, NY (800) 272-8277  
Houston, TX (888) 839-8277

[www.vasspipe.com](http://www.vasspipe.com)  
Baton Rouge, LA (225) 755-8277



March 8, 2020

Indian American Forum  
Akbar Restaurant  
2 South St.  
Garden City, NY 11530


Dear Friends,

On behalf of America's largest township, I'd like to congratulate the Indian American Forum on their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala, celebrating women of character, courage, commitment as well as their accomplishments. I'd also like to extend my sincerest congratulations and best wishes to tonight's honorees as they personify the admirable values and work ethic exemplified by the Indian American community.

A respected collection of outstanding individuals comprising of accomplished medical professionals, a village justice, a professor of music and an effective marketing strategist, this evening's honorees are certainly deserving of recognition from this tremendous group of community leaders. The Indian American Forum has made strides in promoting the cultural heritage of India as well as furthering relationships with neighbors from all walks of life. What's more, the volunteers of this organization work tirelessly to preserve and celebrate Indian culture, with each event growing more successful than the last.

It is because of the hardworking volunteers of the Indian American Forum that we are able to have a proud, established network of Indian culture. Of course, I must also thank the tenacious Indu Jaiswal, Chairwoman of the Indian American Forum, for her commitment to sharing and promoting Indian values and tradition.

Once more, congratulations to tonight's honorees. I wish you and all the members of the Indian American Forum the very best and look forward to working collaboratively with everyone in the very near future.



Sincerely,

Donald X. Clavin, Jr.  
Supervisor



## Diya Jaiswal

### MY JOURNEY SO FAR

I have done my schooling in Kolkata, graduated from Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi with an Honors degree in Economics, and then moved back to Kolkata and have lived here since. I have worn different hats through my journey so far and refer to myself as a “Re-launcher,” as I have constantly re-launched myself according to the age and stage of my life.

I started out as a corporate investment banker with a foreign bank and worked there for eight years. I had two children during this phase and worked till the end of each pregnancy, travelling from my bank to the labour room for both my deliveries to maximize my maternity leave with my children. Motherhood came with its own challenges, so I decided to re-invent myself as an entrepreneur so that I could be my own boss. I set up my own art gallery for local Bengal artists, ensuring a better work-life balance as I could divide my time effectively between my home, my children and the gallery. I ran my gallery very successfully for the next nine years and during this phase, I also had my third child.

My life was busy and full, yet I still felt unfulfilled--there was so much more I wanted to do, especially for women. The women in my life have always influenced and inspired me, and yet women empowerment is the most unfinished part of our human history. Women need to recognize their own self-worth and inner strength rather than accept being described as the “weaker sex”. To take this objective forward, I decided to educate myself further, and therefore went back to studying and learning.

It was not easy to go back to academics at that point in my life, but I was determined. So, as my children were doing their various school exams, I did mine, and I successfully completed three different degrees in mental health over three years. Armed with this knowledge, I set up my company, “Empowerful,” four years ago. I have been practicing since then as a Life Coach and a Counsellor, with a strong focus on helping women empower themselves. I also run my social media handles, which have found strong support with over two lakh followers from all over the world. My inbox is always full of questions and requests from women across countries and borders, and I do my best to be the rainbow in their cloud. Between my chamber appointments, my Skype calls and my emails, I work consistently and constantly to help each woman be her best self.

### MY SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES

Facebook: @EmpowerfulwithLifeCoachDiya

Instagram: @empowerful\_with\_diyajaiswal

Twitter: @empowerful\_diya



*God could not be everywhere so he created mothers. Specially angel like you. You were the best teacher in the world. Over the years we have realized how true that is. Thanks for being the **BEST MOM and TEACHER** in the world. Words are not enough to express **GRATITUDE** that you deserve for all that you have done for us all these years. we take this chance to thank you for all your unmeasurable contributions to our lives.*

**JAISWAL AND RIHAL FAMILY**

Michael N. Rosenblut  
Chairman, Board of Managers



Patricia Connelly, RN  
Executive Director

## We are Proud to Sponsor

# Indian American Forum Ninth Outstanding Womens Achievements Awards Gala

*An Evening to Celebrate*

Women of Character, Courage,  
Commitment and Accomplishments



## Congratulations to all Honorees

Dr. Saroj I Shah  
Aashmeeta Yogiraj  
Prachi Dua, MD, MPH  
Hon. Judge Elizabeth Pessala  
Dr. Francesca Cassio



Health plan options for those with Medicare  
and those with both Medicare and Medicaid  
Toll Free: 866-586-8044 [agewenewyork.com](http://agewenewyork.com)

Congratulations  
to Indu Jaiswal  
for Womens Gala  
and all the Honorees

Jitendra Nath

&

Rekha Chichara

Congratulations  
to all the Honorees  
on their achievements  
and to Indian American Forum

## ACCOUNTING FIRM

Accounting

Auditing

Taxation

Advisory Services

We offer Business Compliance, Internal and External Audits, Global Tax, Tax Accounting, Economics & Statistics and Transfer Pricing Services.

### Our Services

Reporting Valuation Human Resources Accounting Advisory Auditing Services

## DALIP MALIK CPA, P.C.

Cell: +1 516 439 1424

Office: +1 516 308 4970

Fax: +1 516 221 8210

Email: [dalip@dalipmalikcpa.com](mailto:dalip@dalipmalikcpa.com)

Our Firm Caters To Businesses In All Industries

Telecom

Food

Automotive

Retail Sectors

Construction

Entertainment & Media

Financial Services

Real Estate

Transportation & Logistics

Providing Consulting Services For Mergers & Acquisitions, Analytics, Finance Operations, Pensions, Benchmarking & Security.

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO  
ALL THE HONOREES  
FOR THEIR ACHEIVEMENTS  
AND  
BEST WISHES TO  
WOMEN'S ACHEIVEMENT GALA

SUDESH MUKHI AND DR. SUDHA MUKHI  
SONIA MUKHI

## The National Executive Committee of Association of Indians in America



Congratulates to the Honorees of the day

Dr. Saroj I. Shah  
Aashmeeta Yogiraj  
Prachi Dua, MD, MPH  
Honorable Judge Elizabeth Pessala  
Dr. Francesca Cassio

Best wishes to Indu Jaiswal and her team for such an outstanding work

From  
President Dr. Urmilesh Arya and National Executive Committee of AIA  
The National Executive Committee of Association of Indians in America



CONGRATULATIONS  
TO  
ALL THE HONOREES  
AND  
BEST WISHES TO  
INDIAN AMERICAN FORUM

DR BUDHDEV AND DOLLY MANWAR

---

## Indian American Forum Senior Program

---

Indian American Forum meets every fourth Tuesday of every month at the Bethpage community Senior Center, at 103 Grumman Road, Bethpage, NY.

All are welcome to join us and enjoy the day with other seniors. It is coordinated by the panel below.

Mrs Nirmala Rametra  
631 269 7744

Anu Gulati  
516 795 1588

Vijay Goswamy  
516 808 8215





Arya Samaj of Long Island

Congratulates

all the Honorees

for their achievements

Board of Trustees

& Executive Committee

# FROM BUSINESSES ON MAIN STREET TO YOUR FRIENDS DOWN THE STREET

Working **TOGETHER**  
sets us apart.

*Proud Supporter of  
The Indian American Forum*

**Celebrating the hard work and dedication of The Indian American Forum  
and this year's Outstanding Womens Achievements Awards Honorees.**



With community banking from Montauk to Manhattan, BNB Bank is committed to keeping neighborhoods strong. One of New York's fastest growing community banks, BNB works with our neighbors to help others in need – so together, we all succeed.

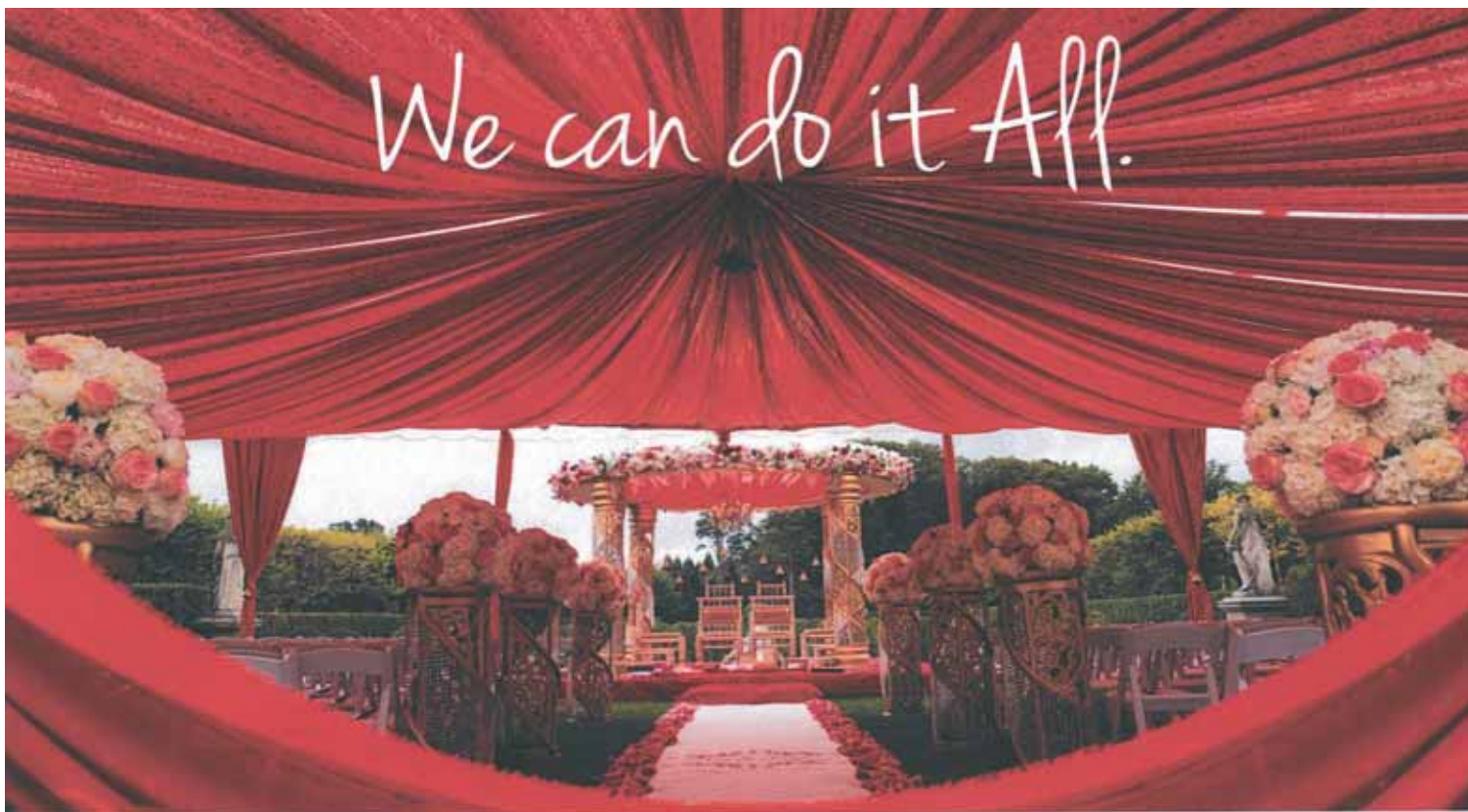


Member FDIC



Chanbir Kaur, VP, Branch Manager | 8191 Jericho Turnpike, Woodbury, NY 11797 | 516-367-2189 | [bnbbank.com](http://bnbbank.com)

We can do it All.



# GLAMOROUS

EVENT PLANNERS **AND** PRODUCTIONS

260A W. Old Country Rd, Hicksville, NY 11801

call **516.933.2788**

[info@glamouroseventplanners.com](mailto:info@glamouroseventplanners.com)

[www.glamouroseventplanners.com](http://www.glamouroseventplanners.com)

DESIGN  
**AND** DECOR



PLANNING **AND**  
COORDINATION





# BnBDance

**Dance | Fitness | Choreography | Events**

- **BnB Kidz (2yrs and up) - Bollywood Kids Lessons**
- **BnB Teenz (13 and up) - Bollywood Choreography for Teens**
- **Cardio Bollywood: Adult Dance Fitness Class**
- **Bollywood Choreography Classes**
- **Private Classes**
- **Wedding: Couple's First Dance, Group Family Dance Choreography**
- **BnB Dance Troupe performance**



**Namrata Bajaj**  
**Creative Director**  
**[www.bnbdance.com](http://www.bnbdance.com)**  
**[info@bnbdance.com](mailto:info@bnbdance.com)**

**+1(702)285-9722**

Congratulations  
to all the Honorees  
for your  
enormous contribution  
to the society

Shammi Singh

Integrated Brokerage Services, Inc.

Is Proud To Support

## Indian American Forum

Congratulations to  
**All The Outstanding Women**  
**Being Honored For All Their Achievements**



Integrated Brokerage Services, Inc.  
Risk Management, Insurance & Financial Services

**Neil Anand**

President

**Anuj Rihal**

Vice President

303 Sunnyside Boulevard

Plainview, NY 11803

Phone: (516) 997-2900

Fax: (516) 997-2910

Email: [neila@ibsinsurance.com](mailto:neila@ibsinsurance.com)

Email: [anujr@ibsinsurance.com](mailto:anujr@ibsinsurance.com)



# Nargis Dutt

*Memorial Cancer Foundation, Inc.*



Congratulations from all of us at  
the Nargis Dutt Memorial Cancer Foundation to the  
Outstanding Women Achievement Award Honorees,  
to Indu Jaiswal & all the members of  
Indian American Forum.

## SAVE THE DATE

Please Join us for our Annual Gala and Fashion Show on  
June 14th, 2020 at The Long Island Marriott in Uniondale, NY

*For more information, please visit [www.nargisduttny.org](http://www.nargisduttny.org)*



Priya Dutt, M.P. with the Board Members of Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation

# *CONGRATULATIONS*

*to*

*Dr. Saroj I. Shah*

*and*

*Aashmeeta Yogiraj*

*and*

*Prachi Dua, MD, MPH*

*and*

*Hon. Judge Elizabeth Pessala*

*and*

*Dr. Francesca Cassio*

*Best wishes,*

Ravishankar Bhooplapur

*President*



XAVIER UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ARUBA

[www.xusom.com](http://www.xusom.com) | (516)-333-2224

1000 Woodbury Road Suite 109

Woodbury, NY 11797



Congratulations  
to  
the honorees  
of  
Outstanding Women's  
Achievement Gala  
&  
Indian American Forum  
for  
service to community

*Surinder & Nirmala Rametra*

*Board of Trustees  
Indian American Forum*



**AKBAR RESTAURANT**

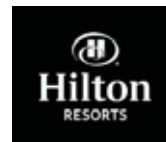


*Experience the ultimate in service, food and ambiance!*

**We Proudly Cater At:**



**THE GARDEN CITY HOTEL**  
*Long Island's Leading Hotel Since 1874*




**Or At Your Preferred Location**

**LONG ISLAND – GARDEN CITY**

2 South Street  
Garden City, NY 11530  
Phone: 516-357-8300 Fax: 516-357-8214  
[www.theakbar.com](http://www.theakbar.com)

**NEW JERSEY – EDISON**

21 Cortland Street  
Edison, NJ 08837  
Phone: 732-632-8822 Fax: 732-603-5040  
[www.akbarrestaurant.com](http://www.akbarrestaurant.com)





CONGRATULATION

INDU JAISWAL

FOR ALL YOU DO FOR OUR COMMUNITY

PETER & DOROTHY BHEDDAH





**Parker Jewish Institute**  
HEALTH CARE AND REHABILITATION

**PETER SEIDEMAN**  
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**MICHAEL N. ROSENBLUT**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO

PROUDLY SUPPORTS

**THE INDIAN AMERICAN FORUM INC.**

AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 9TH YEAR OF OUTSTANDING WOMENS  
ACHIEVEMENTS AWARDS GALA ON SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HONOREES**

**\* DR. SAROJ I. SHAH \***

**AASHMEETA YOGIRAJ**

**PRACHI DUA, MD, MPH**

**HON. JUDGE ELIZABETH PESSALA**

**DR. FRANCESCA CASSIO**

SHORT TERM REHABILITATION • LONG TERM CARE • SOCIAL ADULT DAY CARE  
HOME HEALTH CARE • HOSPICE • PALLIATIVE CARE • INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT DIALYSIS  
• MEDICAL HOUSE CALLS • MANAGED LONG TERM CARE • MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN

**271-11 76TH AVENUE, NEW HYDE PARK, NEW YORK 11040**

**877-727-5373 | [www.parkerinstitute.org](http://www.parkerinstitute.org) | PARKER INSTITUTE /   **



# CONGRATULATIONS

DR. FRANCESCA CASSIO  
AND  
ALL THE WELL DESERVING HONOREES  
OF  
OUTSTANDING WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

WE WISH YOU ALL CONTINUED SUCCESS!

Tejinder & Harvinder Bindra

# SMART SOLUTIONS AND EVENTS



## NEED A WEBSITE?

Call **(631) 875-4612** For A Free Quote

Take Your Business To The Next Level With Our Web Designing & Digital Marketing!

**WEB  
DESIGNING**

*Imagination Is hat It Takes!*

**Digital Media  
Marketing**

**Event Portal  
Showcase**

**Corporate  
Events**

[www.smartsolutionsandevents.com](http://www.smartsolutionsandevents.com)

[info@smartsolutionsandevents.com](mailto:info@smartsolutionsandevents.com)



## Gift Of Life USA

A 501 (C) (3) Non-Profit Organization Supporting Health & Education For Differently-abled



**WINGS WITHOUT LIMBS**

[info@giftoflifeus.org](mailto:info@giftoflifeus.org)

Flora Parekh (President) (631) 875-4612

Paresh Parekh (Chairman) (631) 790-6953

## SAVE THE DATE

### ANNUAL GALA

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Sunday, 5PM @ Huntington Hilton

598 Broadhollow Rd, Melville, NY 11747

Admission

General \$89

VIP \$125

Kids \$60 (4 - 12Yrs )

*Come Support the  
Differently-Abled!*

For Tickets & Details Visit: [www.giftoflifeus.org](http://www.giftoflifeus.org)

## Harshil Creations

Real Diamonds \*\* Designer Jewelry \*\* Gold & Silver \*\* Astrological Color Stones



**Flora Parekh**  
631 875 4612

**Paresh Parekh**  
631 790 6953

**Harshil** CREATIONS Corp.

**JEWELLERS**

Manufacturer / Importer & Exporter of

All Kinds of Gold, Silver, Diamond & Costume Jewellery

Add Unique Touch Of Elegant  
Jewelry To Your Wedding / Next  
Event!

**Call Paresh (631) 790 6953**

For Unique Custom ,  
Designer & Real Jewelry @  
Wholesale Price



When you're ready to make a difference, we're ready to help

We congratulate the Indian American Forum and all honorees.



**Yatin Doshi, CPFA, CRPC®**

Senior Vice President  
Wealth Management Advisor

212.338.6017

[yatin.doshi@ml.com](mailto:yatin.doshi@ml.com)

**Merrill Lynch Wealth Management**

200 Park Avenue

13th Floor

New York, NY 10167

[fa.ml.com/yatin.doshi](http://fa.ml.com/yatin.doshi)



Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (also referred to as "MLPF&S" or "Merrill") makes available certain investment products sponsored, managed, distributed or provided by companies that are affiliates of Bank of America Corporation ("BofA Corp."). MLPF&S is a registered broker-dealer, Member SIPC and a wholly owned subsidiary of BofA Corp.

Investment products: **Are Not FDIC Insured** **Are Not Bank Guaranteed** **May Lose Value**

The Bull Symbol and Merrill Lynch are trademarks of Bank of America Corporation.

CRPC® is a registered service mark of The College for Financial Planning.

© 2020 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved.

ARBDWKS | AD-02-20-0106 | 470945PM-0519 | 02/2020



**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY**  
HomeServices

Laffey International Realty

# THE [ BATUL MORBI ] TEAM



**BATUL MORBI**  
516-859-8037  
bmorbi@bhhsaffey.com



**INESHA JONEJA**  
917-744-6665  
ijoneja@bhhsaffey.com



**ALI RIZVI**  
516-302-7883  
arizvi@bhhsaffey.com

**Over 27 years** of Real Estate Experience  
and **HALF A BILLION** in Real Estate sales!

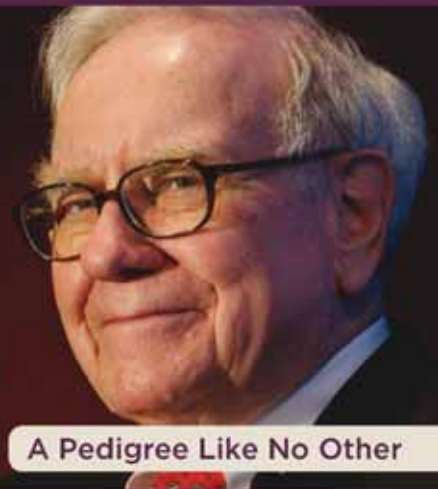
We're Local, We're Global! Around the block, or around  
the world, we can help with all your Real Estate Needs

## WHY CHOOSE

**Berkshire Hathaway Home Services  
& The Batul Morbi Team...**

“When people are making the decision of the magnitude of selling a house, it's the biggest decision a great many families will ever make. They want to know who they're working with and we think that the Berkshire Hathaway name will be reassuring to many of those people.”

**-Warren Buffet**, Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Chairman and CEO



**A Pedigree Like No Other**



**PREM JYOTISH**  
718.899.6161

**PREM JYOTISH**  
World Famous Astrologer & Numerologist

premjyotish.net | info@premjyotish.net | 718.899.6161 | 37-05 74th street, 3rd FL, Jackson Heights, NY 11372



Congratulates All Honorees



Headquarters: Jericho, NY

With Best Compliments

Harry and Preeti Aurora  
Param and Rohini Singh

*Congratulations  
and all the Honorees  
and their selfless work  
for community*

Dr. Anoop & Urvashi Kapoor

Thanks  
To All The Sponsors  
And Members of IAF  
for Making Award Gala  
A Success

Board of Trustee  
Indian American Forum



## WE HAVE WHAT YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS

### BUSINESS BANKING

- Business Checking Accounts
- Commercial Mortgages
- Commercial Loans
- International Trade Finance
- Merchant Services
- Remote Deposit Capture
- Payroll Services
- Loans to Healthcare Professionals
- Asset Based Lending
- SBA Loans: 7(a) and CDC/504

### CONSUMER BANKING

- Checking Accounts
- Money Market Accounts
- Savings Accounts
- CDs and IRAs
- Mortgages
- HAB Debit/VISA card
- HAB Internet Banking
- International & Domestic Wire Transfer

### HAB eBANKING

- Real-time Information & Transactions
- ACH, Online Wire & Bill Payments
- Account Alerts
- Online Payroll
- Remote Deposit Capture
- 24 Hour ATMs and Telephone Banking

## HAB BANK

Visit our branches in Manhattan, Jackson Heights, Hicksville,  
Richmond Hill, Iselin, Los Angeles, Artesia

[www.habbank.com](http://www.habbank.com)



HAB BANK is a Service Mark of Habib American Bank.



**IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE  
INDIAN AMERICAN FORUM'S  
OUTSTANDING WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENT GALA**



*Learn about how your non-profit can earn monthly contributions with  
**BCB's Pay It Forward Program.***

Visit your local branch located at **70 Broadway, Hicksville, NY**, and  
speak with **Branch Manager, Roopam Maini** for more information!

*We also have products and services to  
suit every member of your family.*

SAVINGS AND CHECKING ACCOUNTS | CDs  
BUSINESS LOANS | RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGES  
SMALL BUSINESS LENDING | LINES OF CREDIT | AND MORE!

*Visit our website for a full list of locations and hours.*

www.BCB.Bank | 516.822.8001

**MAKING AN IMPACT**

