



Indian American Forum

www.indianamericanforum.org

13th Women's Achievement Awards Gala

Women of
Character
Courage
Commitment
&
Accomplishments



SATURDAY, MARCH 2nd 2024

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GALA CHAIR SHAMMI SINGH

On behalf of Indian American Forum board of trustees, I would like to welcome you to the thirteenth Annual Outstanding Women's Achievement Gala and thank you for your continuing support of our mission. This outstanding program is part of National Women's History Month celebrating women of character, courage, commitment and accomplishments. □

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.



Congratulations
And Best Wishes
TO
INDU JAISWAL

for

Unwavering resolve for outstanding community services
There is no limit to what we, as Women can accomplish

*Congratulations to all the Honorees
of the day for their unique accomplishments*

From:

Arya Family Foundation
YASHPAL, URMILESH, MUKUL, NIDHI, AMIT, VISHAL

"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It should not be that women are the exception."- Ruth Bader Ginsburg





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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Mrs. Chanbir Kaur Sethi

Mrs. Shammi Singh

Mrs. Rohini Singh

Dr Bhavani Srinivasan

Mr Sunny Thakkar

Today's women are playing several roles of being a professional, a housewife, a mother, a sister and of course a true friend. It is the potential for goodness and proving that it is not our success that defines or empowers us, but it is the potential for goodness and self-less that exists in every human heart, helping and supporting others in this time of need. If we have a heart and mind centered on love and respect, we are empowered to make a difference in the lives of others.

The success of every woman should be the inspiration to another. We should raise each other up.

Today's women continue to hold highest position in all aspects of Business Environment that includes Healthcare, Media, and Politics, corporate, Cinema and Finance. In today's world, women have adorned high offices including that of President, Vice President, Prime Minister, and Speaker of Lok Sabha, Defense Minister, going up in the space, Pilots, and so on. It is important to take the time to learn about Women Leaders, but it is also important to acknowledge the women in our own lives who have helped support, empower and encourage us along the way.

March is women's History month, On Behalf of the board of Trustees and Members of Indian American Forum; I would like to welcome you to our Thirteenth Outstanding Women's Achievements Gala as part of Women's History Month celebration. We 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. We are also presenting special recognition to our young achievers and leaders and the Lifetime Achievement Award to our Seniors.

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**



Congratulations

TO

ALL THE HONOREES

Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan

Dr. Mala Sachdeva

Neela Mukherjee Lockel

Dr. Mamta Shaha

Samyuktha Arun Kumar

&

Mrs. Sharan Premi

(Life Time Achievement Award)

BEST WISHES TO
INDIAN AMERICAN FORUM

Dr. Bhupendra & Indira Patel





Bobby Kumar Kalotee

I am humbled and privileged to take this opportunity to congratulate these wonderful women for their achievements in life. You all are role models. A woman is not only a mother, a successful woman above all is a great humanitarian. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your services to your family and to the community. God bless you and your family.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the team of Indian American Forum for 13th Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala, under the leadership of our dear, respected Indu Jaiswal.



Congratulations

**to the Honorees
on their
remarkable accomplishments**

&

**Indian American Forum
for the
Women's Achievements Gala**

Surinder & Nirmala Rametra

**Board of Trustees
Indian American Forum**





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



March 2, 2024

Dear Friends,

Please accept my warmest greetings and congratulations as you gather this evening to honor The Indian American Forum Annual 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 Annual 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. They have contributed so much to the lives of others and play a significant role in Nassau County and throughout Long Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce A. Blakeman". The signature is stylized and fluid.

*Bruce A. Blakeman
County Executive*



DIME IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE

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Women's Achievements Awards Gala

Chanbir Kaur

Vice President, Branch Manager
8191 Jericho Tpke, Woodbury, NY 11797
516-367-2189x8830
Chanbir.kaur@dime.com



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**OFFICE OF THE
NASSAU COUNTY COMPTROLLER**
240 Old Country Road
Mineola, New York 11501



Hon. Elaine Phillips

March 2, 2024

Dear Friends,

Please accept my warmest greetings and congratulations as you gather to celebrate the **Indian American Forum's Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala**. What a wonderful way to commemorate Women's History Month – celebrating women of character, courage, commitment and success!

Sincere congratulations to the honorees:

Samyukhtha Arun Kumar
Neela Mukherjee Lockett
Mrs. Sharan Premi
Dr. Mala Sachdeva
Dr. Mamta Shaha
Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan

I commend you on your accomplishments and applaud your exemplary commitment to community service.

Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Elaine R. Phillips
Nassau County Comptroller

JOSEPH SALADINO
SUPERVISOR



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

March 2, 2024

Dear Friends,

My colleagues on the Oyster Bay Town Board and I are proud to join in celebrating the Indian American Forum (IAF) 13th Annual Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala, an amazing evening that coincides with National Women's History Month and reflects upon women of character, courage, commitment and accomplishments.

Tonight, we honor outstanding women for their distinguished community service, as well as their tireless support and advocacy on behalf of Long Island's Indian-Americans. We are excited for those being deservedly recognized and we extend our appreciation to the entire organization for the amazing work you all do. Special commendations go out to the entire membership of IAF for orchestrating tonight's memorable program, which uplifts the community of Asian Indians in America and promotes the cultural, secular heritage and values of India. These efforts further friendship and understanding with people of all cultural backgrounds, which is extremely important in today's complex world. You are all pillars in our community and true role models for others who will one day follow in your footsteps.

My colleagues on the Oyster Bay Town Board and I wish tonight's honorees and everyone at IAF a very happy and joyous Gala and we look forward to all of your incredible achievements in the future. You should be proud to be part of such an inspirational legacy of service in our community.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph J. Saladino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph Saladino
Town Supervisor

DONALD X. CLAVIN, JR.
Supervisor



OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR

TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD
ONE WASHINGTON STREET • HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550-4923
(516) 812-3296 • DONACLA@HEMPSTEADNY.GOV

March 2, 2024

Indian American Forum
Women's Achievement Gala
The Metropolitan
3 Pratt Blvd.
Glen Cove, NY 11542

Dear Friends,

On behalf of America's largest township, I'd like to congratulate the Indian American Forum on their 13th 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 accomplished individuals, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald X. Clavin, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Donald X. Clavin, Jr.
Supervisor



*Congratulations
to all the
Honorees
on their
remarkable
accomplishments*



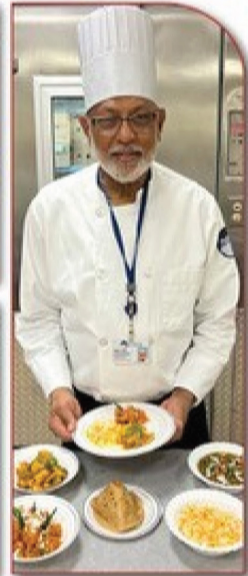
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पार्कर की सेवा

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**TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD
OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR**

**TOWN HALL
220 PLANDOME ROAD
MANHASSET, NY 11030**



**Jennifer S. DeSena
Town Supervisor**

March 2, 2024

Dear Gala Attendees:

I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to the Indian American Forum as we celebrate your terrific work over the last year while looking forward to an exciting 2024.

As the Supervisor of North Hempstead, I have the privilege of witnessing firsthand the positive impact that this forum and its dedicated members have on our town. Today's banquet is meant to acknowledge and honor the committed, courageous and upstanding women who help make the IAF such a great success. In this respect, I'd like to personally congratulate all of today's honorees and award recipients for The Outstanding Women's Achievements Awards Gala. Your pledge to the betterment of your community and culture has not gone unnoticed, and it's efforts like yours that better our town and allow it to grow.

I offer my gratitude to all members of the Indian American Forum for your dedication, not only to your cultural values but to the Town of North Hempstead. Your work continues to be a shining example of how cultural exchange and celebration can unite us for a greater purpose.

May you all enjoy a wonderful afternoon at today's gala banquet, and once again, thank you for your tireless commitment to enriching the cultural and societal landscape of North Hempstead.

Sincerely,

Jennifer S. DeSena,
Supervisor



CONGRATULATIONS

To

THE ESTEEMED HONOREES

Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan
Dr. Mala Sachdeva
Neela Mukherjee Lockel
Dr. Mamta Shaha
Samyuktha Arun Kumar
Mrs. Sharan Premi
(Life Time Achievement Award)

Best wishes to
Indian American Forum
for
Women's Achievement Awards Gala

Keep up the Celebration & Recognition of women
Character, Courage, Commitment & Accomplishment.

ANIMESH & ANUPAM GOENKA

भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
न्यू यार्क



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
NEW YORK

February 29, 2024

MESSAGE

I am delighted to learn that the Indian American Forum would be holding Outstanding Women's Achievement Awards Gala on March 2, 2024. On this occasion, I convey my warm wishes to all its members. Over the years, IAF has made singular contribution to promoting women empowerment, and their initiatives are deeply appreciated.

In the digital age, women are scripting new paths of progress for us, both in America and India. As entrepreneurs, innovators, scientists and change-makers, they are meaningfully contributing to a harmonious and sustainable society. They, indeed, bring to us a high sense of optimism and confidence.

I wish the Gala all success. Happy International Women's Day.


(Binaya S. Pradhan)



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JENNIFER S. DESENA

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**TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK**

**200 Plandome Road
Manhasset, NY 11030
Tel: (516) 869-7646
Fax: (516) 627-1714**



Town Clerk
**RAGINI
SRIVASTAVA**

February 9, 2024

Since 1987, the United States has officially designated March as National Women's History Month and March 2024 marks another inspiring period – a time to recognize and celebrate the indomitable spirit of women.

Beyond the pivotal moments in history when women accomplished wonders in science and arts, our everyday lives are influenced by the indelible ink of their triumphs.

This year, we proudly honor women whose resilience, vision and unwavering dedication have transformed lives. To each honoree, I extend my heartfelt congratulations.

My warm congratulations also to Mrs. Sharan Premi, a torchbearer in her own capacity and recipient of the esteemed Lifetime Achievement Award.

I also thank the Indian American Forum and Mr. Bobby K. Kalotee for organizing and supporting the outstanding women in our community.

To all the magnificent ladies out there, thank you for being the architects of change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ragini Srivastava". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ragini Srivastava
Town Clerk



Deputy Supervisor Dorothy L. Goosby
One Washington Street
Hempstead, New York 11550
(516) 490 -5000
dgoosby@hempsteadny.gov



Hon. Dorothy L. Goosby
Deputy Supervisor

Greetings!

Congratulations to the Indian American Forum on the occasion of your annual Outstanding Women's Achievement Awards Gala.

As we celebrate women's history month and honor the rich contributions that women from all walks of life have made to society, the month of March offers a wonderful opportunity to lift and inspire future generations of women, to believe that they can achieve great things.

I extend my sincerest best wishes to this year's phenomenal honorees. Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan, Dr. Mala Sachdeva, Neela Mukherjee Lockel, Dr. Mamta Shaha, Samyuktha Arun Kumar, Mrs. Sharan Premi, Rhea Manjrekar.

"Women belong in all places where decisions are made, it shouldn't be that women are the exception."

Ruth Bader Ginsberg

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorothy L. Goosby".

Dorothy L. Goosby
Deputy Supervisor



New York State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar

March 2, 2024

Dear IAF Friends,

In 2020, I made history as the first Indian-American woman ever elected to a New York State office.

This legislative session, I made history once again by establishing Diwali as a School Holiday in New York City. From now on and forever, Diwali is finally enshrined in law as a school holiday in our nation's largest school jurisdiction.

It is my esteemed pleasure to join you today for the 13th Annual Women's Achievement Awards Gala. The Indian American Forum is one of the foremost organizations promoting Indian-American women.



The award I received at this very gala from IAF is an honor I hold dear. This year, IAF has once again organized a fabulous event. Indu Jaiswal, Shammi Singh, and the entire organizing committee have brought together some of the most inspiring women leaders of our community to recognize their outstanding achievements.

Women's History Month is a time for us to celebrate the innumerable contributions of women throughout history. Tonight, I am proud to celebrate the diverse contributions of Sharan Premi, Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan, Dr. Mala Sachdeva, Neela Mukherjee Lockel, Dr. Mamta Shaha, and Samyukhtha Arun Kumar.

One of the great women leaders in history, Shirley Chisolm, famously said, "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." Each and every honoree tonight has worked hard to earn her seat at the table, and we will continue to make history and shape our nation and world.

I am wishing you a wonderful gala tonight celebrating the achievements and limitless potential of Indian-American women.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenifer Rajkumar".

Jenifer Rajkumar
New York State Assemblywoman
38th District



Congratulations

*To the Honorees on their
remarkable accomplishments
&*

*Indian American Forum
for the 13th
Women's Achievement Awards*

Dr. Azad Anand

Dr. Nutan Anand

Board of Trustees
Indian American Forum





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Congratulations to

**All the Outstanding Women being
Honored for All of their Achievements!**



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Email: neila@ibsinsurance.com

Email: anujr@ibsinsurance.com



Congratulations

Neela Mukherjee Lockel !!

We are so very proud of you!
CEO-wife, mother & Daughter
among many other roles.

WITH LOVE

**DADDY, MOMMY
DENNIS, DYLAN & DELILAH**





Neela Mukherjee Lockel, MSW-MPA, is the President and CEO of the EAC Network, overseeing programs across New York City and Long Island. The organizational pillars include: Seniors and Nutrition, Children and Youth, Families and Communities, Vocational Services and Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health. Neela has a long history of working with vulnerable populations with critical needs, and serving as a voice for those who are often unheard or unseen.

Before coming to the EAC Network, Neela served as the Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross on Long Island since 2016, where she oversaw Red Cross activities across Nassau County and Suffolk Counties and sat on the Regional Leadership Team of Greater New York. She facilitated the Regional Board Diversity Committee, was a member of the Advanced Public Affairs Training Team and the American Red Cross LEAD, an internal leadership development program. She deployed to several Red Cross disaster responses, and as the Interim Regional CEO for the Maine Region, to lead the team through a merger into the Northern New England Region.

Neela has over 25 years of experience in the non-profit sector from direct services and program development to advocacy to administration and leadership. She was the Founding Executive Director of Girls Inc. of Long Island. Prior to assuming this role in 2012, she worked in academia as an adjunct instructor at Stony Brook University and served as the Director of the Office of Continuing Education for the Adelphi University School of Social Work. She has also consulted with several organizations for strategic planning and program development.

Neela has been recognized numerous times for her achievements by several organizations, including: City and State's 50 Most Powerful People on Long Island, Nassau County Top Leaders, Long Island Press Power List, 40 Under 40 and Top 50 Women in Business by Long Island Business News; Leadership Award from the Shanti Fund and a Young Professionals Award from the American Heart Association.

Originally from New Jersey, Neela is now a resident of Suffolk County. She received an MPA in Public and Non-Profit Management from the NYU Wagner School of Public Service, an MSW from Fordham University, and a BA from Bates College. Neela is a Partner (2015) and Member of the Board of Advisors for the Energeia Partnership through Molloy College, and holds Executive Leadership Certificates from both Fordham University and Adelphi University's Center for Non-Profit Leadership. She is appointed to the Board of Directors for the Middle Country Library Foundation, the Long Island Association and the LIPA Community Advisory Board.

Neela is happily married to Dennis Lockel, retired NYPD, and has two children, Dylan and Dalilah in South Setauket, NY. She loves people, cooking, wellness, yoga and Sundays at home.



**Congratulations to all the Esteemed Honorees
of 2024 for their outstanding achievements.**

**Congratulations to the IAF Team on the
13th Women's Achievement Awards Gala**



Prachi Dua MD, MPH

Specializing in cornea, cataract, and external diseases
Board Certified in Ophthalmology

Northwell Health

Ophthalmology at Great Neck
600 Northern Boulevard, Suite 214
516-470-2020

Manhattan Eye Ear, and Throat Hospital
210 East 64th Street, 7th floor
212-702-7300

Dr. Mala Sachdeva

Professor of Medicine at Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell.



She is an academic nephrologist, an educator, and part of the full-time faculty at the Division of Kidney Diseases and Hypertension in Great Neck, New York, Northwell Health System. She received her medical degree from New York Medical College in 2001. Subsequently, she did her Internal Medicine Residency, Chief Residency and then Nephrology Fellowship at Montefiore Medical Center, University Hospital for Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, New York.

Dr. Sachdeva joined the Division of Nephrology in 2008. She is currently medical director for the peritoneal dialysis program at Julia and Israel Waldbaum Dialysis Center as well as medical director for the home dialysis program (home hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis) at Floral Park. Her clinical focus has been Women's Health in Kidney Disease, including expertise in Obstetric Nephrology. She is co-editor of a textbook titled: *Obstetric and Gynecologic Nephrology: Women's Health Issues in the Patient With Kidney Disease*. Dr. Sachdeva has published many articles related to home dialysis, hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, renal ultrasound and women's health/obstetric nephrology.

Currently she has been elected as President Elect in 2024 and then will serve as President (2025-2026) for Women In Nephrology Organization, a national organization advocating and mentoring women and men in developing exciting careers in the field of renal disease.

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Dr. Mamta Shaha

When we think about an empowered woman,
No personality comes to mind.
You are a Dreamer, you are a believer, you are a doer,
You are an achiever,
For us, you are our superhero.
We Love You!!
“Happy Women’s Day”



Ashok, Ashish, Manish Melanie, and Raj Manish Shaha
The Shaha Family!!

Dr. Mamta A Shaha.



Dr. Mamta A. Shaha is a distinguished figure whose profound impact spans the fields of ophthalmology, pediatrics, education, spiritual leadership, and community service. As a board-certified ophthalmologist from Bombay University and a board-certified pediatrician in the USA, Dr. Shaha has dedicated over 35 years to the practice of pediatrics. Her academic contributions include roles as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at NYU Medical Center and Adjunct Assistant Professor at Mt. Sinai Hospital, enriching the medical education landscape with her expertise.

Beyond her medical career, Dr. Shaha has been a beacon of spiritual and community leadership within the Jain community, actively participating in the Federation of Jain Associations in North America for 25 years. She has chaired two significant committees, notably producing over 250 episodes of the Jain TV Show "Mangalam," a project that underscores her commitment to media and cultural education. This dedication extended to the development of the Mangalam App and the Jaina Mangalam Channel, making Jain teachings accessible worldwide.

As Chairperson of the Jaina Women's Committee, Dr. Shaha has been pivotal in promoting women's empowerment, organizing conferences and initiatives focused on financial and digital literacy. Her work with Religions for Peace and the United Nations further highlights her commitment to global peace and religious dialogue, including serving as a juror for the International Religious Film Festival in Venice, Italy.

Dr. Shaha's community service is equally commendable, with active involvement in the Great Neck area through the Kings Point Civic Association and contributions to health and education as a member of various local boards. Her leadership in the Rotary Club of North Shore exemplifies her ongoing dedication to service, with multiple projects under her guidance, including international efforts and educational conferences.

She lives in Kings Point with her husband Dr. Ashok Shaha. Enjoys travelling, listening to music, and reading.



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Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan MD DCH MPH
practices Pediatrics, Public Health and
Acupuncture in Long Island New York.



She graduated from Grant Medical College JJ group of Hospitals Mumbai, India, and did her pediatric residency at North Shore University Hospital. MPH at Stony Brook University Hospital and Acupuncture at NYU and China.

Formerly

Medical Director Children with Special Needs Suffolk County Dept of Health;
Past President Suffolk Pediatric Society (1st woman and only Indian American)
Past President IALI,
Past President AAPI QLI (only woman President)
Past Vice Chair BOT National AAPI

At Present

President Grant Medical College Alumni USA Inc.
Regional Director Mid Atlantic region AAPI
Chair Publications AAPI
Vice Chair Asian American Advisory Committee Nassau County.
Advisory committee Hindu Temple Flushing NY

Dr. Srinivasan as the Chair Women's Affairs for AAPI QLI for many years conducts free public health educational programs in Nassau County on numerous health issues including an annual Mental Health Symposium and Annual Breast Cancer Awareness seminar.

The doctor has received numerous national and State awards.

Most recent Awards:

Lifetime Achievement Award AAPIQLI Dec 2022
Regional Director Award AAPI Dec 2023
Global Health Symposium Award Jan 2024.

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Young Achiever Samyuktha Arun Kumar



Samyukhtha Arun Kumar was facilitated by the Town of North Hempstead for engaging herself and other students in the rewild initiative.

She has been on the Varsity Girls Golf team since 9th grade and has been appointed the Captain of the team.

Samyukhta loves to dance. She is trained in classical dance Bhatanatyam. She loves carnatic music. she can sing carnatic as well as Barbershop music.

She is member of music group called Adelettes. This year they competed in Barbershop Harmony Convention held at NYC and won 1st place.



Celebrating Mrs. Premi

Dear Auntie Ji

You will always hold a special place in our hearts.

You were an inspiration during your life and now guiding us heavens.

We love you and miss you dearly.

Ranju & Ravi Batra





Mrs. Sharan Premi

Mrs. Sharan Premi came to the United States on Feb 4, 1964 with her husband Mr. J.S. Premi and their four children. Leaving by ship from Mumbai, the family sailed for 35 days to get to New York to set up their new lives. Mr. Premi worked for the Indian Government and helped set up its first American office in NY for the World's Fair in 1964.

Then after seven years of govt service they started their own business in accessories and garments imported from India. Together they worked incessantly to support the family and they also look after the whole community. They took part in all organizations and community events in every religious and social Group to keep the community together. They were also the founders of the International Punjabi Society- a world recognized organization that bonded relations between India and US. Many political and famous dignitaries were hosted in these events including Giani Zail Singh and IK Gujral (Former Prime Ministers of India) that were introduced to all in the functions held at Mr. Premi's residence with Mrs. Premi being the backbone of all the events.

Mr. and Mrs. Premi took much pride in their incomparable ability to help the local community. They helped with anyone needing assistance. Mrs. Premi never had an issue with welcoming anyone into her home, and she would singlehandedly cook meals for large groups of people at the drop of a hat. Many a time they housed people who had nowhere to go. Mrs. Premi helped new immigrants with Housing, providing shelter and guiding them in his new environment for several years. Their House was known as Mini Punjab.

What she became the most famous for was her sense of humor. She was a standup comedian and entertained all with her witty and spontaneous jokes.

Lastly and perhaps most importantly, she was a very generous and loving woman. She donated to many causes; most notably to foundations which focused on cancer research and aid to those who were blind, as they were close to her heart.

All in all, Sharan Premi was an amazing woman with qualities we all look for in those close to us, and even ourselves. She lived a long and full life, always surrounded by loved ones and good times, and she wouldn't have wanted it any other way. She is terribly missed, but we should all know she is watching over us and sending us all of her tremendous amounts of love.



Congratulations

to

All the Honorees

**of Women's Achievement Awards
for your selfless service to the Community.**

&

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Glimpses of 2023 IAF GALA



Glimpses of 2023 IAF GALA





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Indian American Forum

&

All the Honorees

For their selfless work for the Community

Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan

Dr. Mala Sachdeva

Neela Mukherjee Lockel

Dr. Mamata Shaha

Samyuktha Arun Kumar

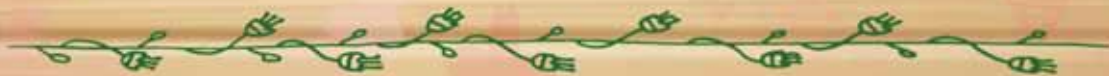
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Mrs. Sharan Premi

(Life time Achievement Award)

With Best Wishes:

Dr. Anoop & Urvashi Kapoor





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Indian American Forum - Senior Program

Indian American Forum organizes a get-together on fourth Tuesday of every month at Bethpage Community Center. This Program is attended by Seniors from all walks of life.

The day starts with tea and snacks around 10.00 a.m. Different card games are played by different groups of people. The games like bridge, Poker, not to forget most popular game among Indians popular cards games. Tokens are used as substitute to money. Among other activities Pool Tables, Carrom Boards, Table Tennis and many other games are also played.

There is always an informative presentation by professionals. This is followed by Lunch (which is mostly sponsored). The activities resume after lunch and the program continues till 3.30 p.m. This program gives seniors an opportunity to socialize with others and make new friends.

This program has become extremely popular. The attendance exceeds 60 people most of the time. This program is organized by a team of Indian American Forum volunteers. IAF is grateful to Mrs. Anu Gulati, Mrs. Nirmal Rametra and Mr. Vijay Goswamy for their support in organizing this program.

Members of Executive Committee are always helpful in making the program a success.



IAF- Divine Meditation Program





IAF Divine Meditation hosts Divine Meditation, Yoga, Bhajan sessions & festival celebrations Spiritual way twice a month at Levittown Hall, drawing a full house of participants eager to embrace the benefits of meditation and holistic well-being. Names of yoga teachers are Vandana Kumar, Kiran Gupta, Radha vardhan.

These days people are so restless, agitated, misguided, devoid of genuine emotions that they are in dire need to learn the subtle techniques of Divine Mantra Meditation. By the way, what is Meditation??

Meditation is the pure and divine technique to manage the Mind. If the Mind is not properly managed it becomes restless and unfocused. And in this state of Mind people lose their sleep, their digestive system is compromised and their immune system loses its potency to work at their optimum level. Such a diminished state of our body becomes vulnerable to all types of diseases. It is our moral and ethical duty to take care of our Mind and Body.

It is Mind over Body. If the Mind is healthy and focused then our Body is also healthy and strong.

We, the volunteers of IAF Divine meditation, under the guidance of Shree Narinder Kapoor ji, demonstrate and practice these subtle techniques. Lot of people are taking the advantage to learn these supreme techniques. The hall where we conduct these Divine Mantra Meditation is always full to the capacity. We are getting very strong and encouraging feedback from the participants.

Organizers

Jyoti Gupta
Beena Kothari
Dr Bhavani Srinivasan
Indu Jaiswal

Writer

Narinder Kapoor
Jyoti Gupta.





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Life time achievement Award

Mrs. Sharan Premi

The Esteemed Honorees

Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan

Dr. Mala Sachdeva

Neela Mukherjee Lockel

Dr. Mamta Shaha

Samyuktha Arun Kumar

We are proud to recognize these women of achievement
during the **IAF Women's Achievements Awards Gala**

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Glimpses of 2023 IAF GALA



Glimpses of 2023 IAF GALA





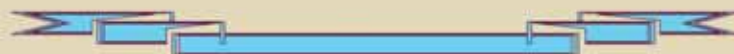
Congratulations
Indian American Forum
&
Esteemed Honorees
of
Women's Achievement Awards

Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan
Dr. Mala Sachdeva
Neela Mukherjee Lockel
Dr. Mamta Shaha
Samyuktha Arun Kumar

&

Mrs. Sharan Premi
(Life Time Achievement Award)

Best wishes from:
Dr. Prem and Shashi Goel





Congratulations

Indu Jaiswal, Indian American Forum
&
Honorees of

13th Women achievement Awards Gala

Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan

Dr. Mala Sachdeva

Neela Mukherjee Lockel

Dr. Mamta Shaha

Samyuktha Arun Kumar

Mrs. Sharan Premi

(Life Time Achievement Award)

K. L. Sardana & Family





Congratulations

**Indian American Forum
Team**

&

Honorees

*of 13th Women's Achievement
Awards Gala*

Vandana and Aron Govil





Congratulations

To all the Honorees
for your enormous
contribution
to the society.

Shammi Singh Judgee Singh



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And it works. "When my dad got to be too much for my mom to take care of, we tried an assisted living facility," said one daughter about her parents, who receive Seniors Helping Seniors®

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care that allowed her to bring dad back home."

Our rapidly growing senior population is determined to age in the comfort of their own homes. "A much better alternative to being in a long-term care facility," said Yocom "and it's much more affordable."



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Our Honorees from Past Years

1ST Gala 2012

1. Chanbir Kaur – Branch Manger, BNB Bank
2. Manmeet Lamba - Community Service ,Glen Cove Gurudwara
3. Lavina Malwani-Founder, Children' s Hope India
4. Satya Pradeep -Teacher/ Educationist
5. Sangeet Sharma-RBC Radio

2nd Gala 2013

1. Bharti Desai – President, Gujrati Samaj.
2. Dina Pahilajani – Founder, Children's Hope India.
3. Deborah Misir -Attorney
4. Kate Murray- Town Clerk, Town of Hempstead
5. Shammi Singh-Founder Member, Nargis Dutt Memorial FDN.
6. Sunila Tejpaull- Education Director,Forest Hills Montessori School

3rd Gala 2014

1. Linda Mangano- Editor & Publisher
2. Pandit A. Tripti Mukherjee- Classical Vocalist
3. Dr. Chhaya M. Patel- Neonatologist
4. Sunita S. MUKhi- Ph D in Performance Studies
5. Swati Vaishnav- Nartanrang Dance Academy

4th Gala 2015

1. Harvinder Bhatia-Philanthropist & Social Worker.
2. Anita Kwatra- Executive V.P. Edelman
3. Roopam Maini-Assit V.P/Branch Manger BCB Bank
4. Meena Malhotra –Hospitality, Akbar Restaurant.
5. Dr. Sudha Mukhi- Hematologist & Oncologist
6. Kathleen Rice – Congress Woman

5th Gala 2016

1. Judy Bosworth-Supervisor Town of North Hempstead
2. Dr. Manjeet Chadha- Prof. Of Radiation Oncology
3. Jyoti Gupta- Music & Cultural Promoter
4. Sunita Sadhnani-Owner, Bollywood Performing Arts
5. Dr. Runi Mukherjee Ratnam-Prof. Of Psychology, SUNY

6th Gala 2017

1. Ranju Batra- “Forever Diwali Stamp”
2. Kalpana Patel-CEO/ President Unique Comp Inc.
3. Dr. Binita R. Shah- Prof of Emergency Medicine & Pediatrics
4. Madline Singas- Nassau County District. Attorney

7th Gala 2018

1. Jasbir ‘Nami’ Kaur-Board Member Children’s Hope India
2. Dr. Isha Mehta-Chief of Gynecology, Elmhurst Hospital
3. Pinky Rangi- Entrepreneur/ Fashion Designer
4. Reema Rasool –Principal at LUXE Consulting Group

8th Gala 2019

1. Sonia Bain-Attorney/ Partner, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner
2. Manju Saluja- Commissioned Portrait Artist
3. Ushir Pandit –Durant, Justice of New York State Supreme Court
4. Dr. Subhadra Nori-Regional Director, Elmhursts Queens Hospital
5. Sylinthia Burges-Counselor -Nassau County Veterans Services

9th Gala 2020

1. Dr. Prachi Dua- Ophthalmologist, North well Hospital Manhasset
2. Dr. Saroj Shah- OB -GYN
3. Aashmeeta Yogiraj – Director of Marketing, Jas Broadcasting Corp.
4. Hon Judge Elizabeth Pessala
5. Prof. Francesca Cassio- Professor of Music, Hofstra University

10th Gala 2021

1. Laura Curran- Nassau County Executive
2. Jennifer Rajkumar- Assembly Woman
3. Roopal Patel- Senior- V.P, Fashion Director, Saks Fifth Avenue.
4. Dr. Nirmal Khurana- Pediatrician
5. Dr. Angelish Kumar- Founder/ MD, NCMP Women’s Urology

11th Gala 2022

1. Nisha Kumar Behringer-MBAAuditor at Truck Hero LLC
2. Kalpana Bhandarkar-Board Member , Schuyler center for Analasys & Advocacy
3. Neeta Bhasin- President, ASB Communications
4. Dorothy Goosby-Deputy Supervisor, Town of Hempstead.
5. Dr. Priti Mehta- Gastroenterologist, Digestive Disease Care
6. Beena Kothari-Philanthropist & Real State Agent
7. Ragini Srivastava- Town Clerk, Town of North Hempstead.

12th Gala 2022

1. Sandy Bhatia-Manager, Flushing Bank,
2. Nayna Brahmabhatt-BAPS
3. Dr. Parul Dua-PDM Dental
4. Vandama Jauhar-Song writer & Composer
5. Dr. Purvi Parikh-Allergist & Immunologist
6. Ria Parashar-Young Achieve4r(Member CH-3)

Congratulations Indu Jaiswal

IAF Team & Honorees
on Women's Achievement Awards Gala



With Best Wishes
Rekha Chichara
Jitendra Chichara



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Jaiswal Family

Sudhir and Indu

Niten, Rashi, Aman and Rian

Riten, Michele, Mia and Kieran





Vijay Goswamy



Sanju Sharma



Roopam Maini

Editor's Note

On Behalf of Indian American Forum, We extend a warm Welcome to you all.

IAF is not for profit organization of Asian Indians in America to promote the culture, heritage and secular values of India as far as the furtherance of friendship and understanding with people of other cultural backgrounds.

The successful creation of this journal would not have been possible without the help of individuals who graciously offered time, energy and resources. We highly appreciate the support and encouragement of IAF Chair person Indu Jaiswal ji. We are also thankful to Anju Sharma and Chanbir Kaur and the members of IAF Committee for their support.

Congratulations to all the honorees and awardees for their remarkable accomplishment.

We are grateful to our sponsors for their support.

Warm Regards

Vijay Goswamy, Sanju Sharma, Roopam Maini

**** We have tried our best and taken possible extreme care in presenting this 13th Gala Journal, if there are any errors or lapse, please forgive us.****

Congratulations

***Indu Jaiswal
Indo American Forum
& Honorees of***

On 13th Women's Achievement Awards Gala

**Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan
Dr. Mala Sachdeva
Neela Mukherjee Lockel
Dr. Mamta Shaha
Samyuktha Arun Kumar**

**Mrs. Sharan Premi
(Life Time Achievement Award)**

**Best Wishes From:
Dr. Leena & Nitin Doshi**





Arya Samaj of Long Island Congratulates

all the Honorees

Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan
Dr. Mala Sachdeva
Neela Mukherjee Lockel
Dr. Mamta Shaha
Samyuktha Arun Kumar
Mrs. Sharan Premi
(Life Time Achievement Award)

for their Achievements
with Best Wishes from
Board of Trustees
& Executive Committee



CONGRATULATIONS

INDU JAISWAL

INDIAN AMERICAN FORUM

&

Honorees

of Women's Achievement Awards

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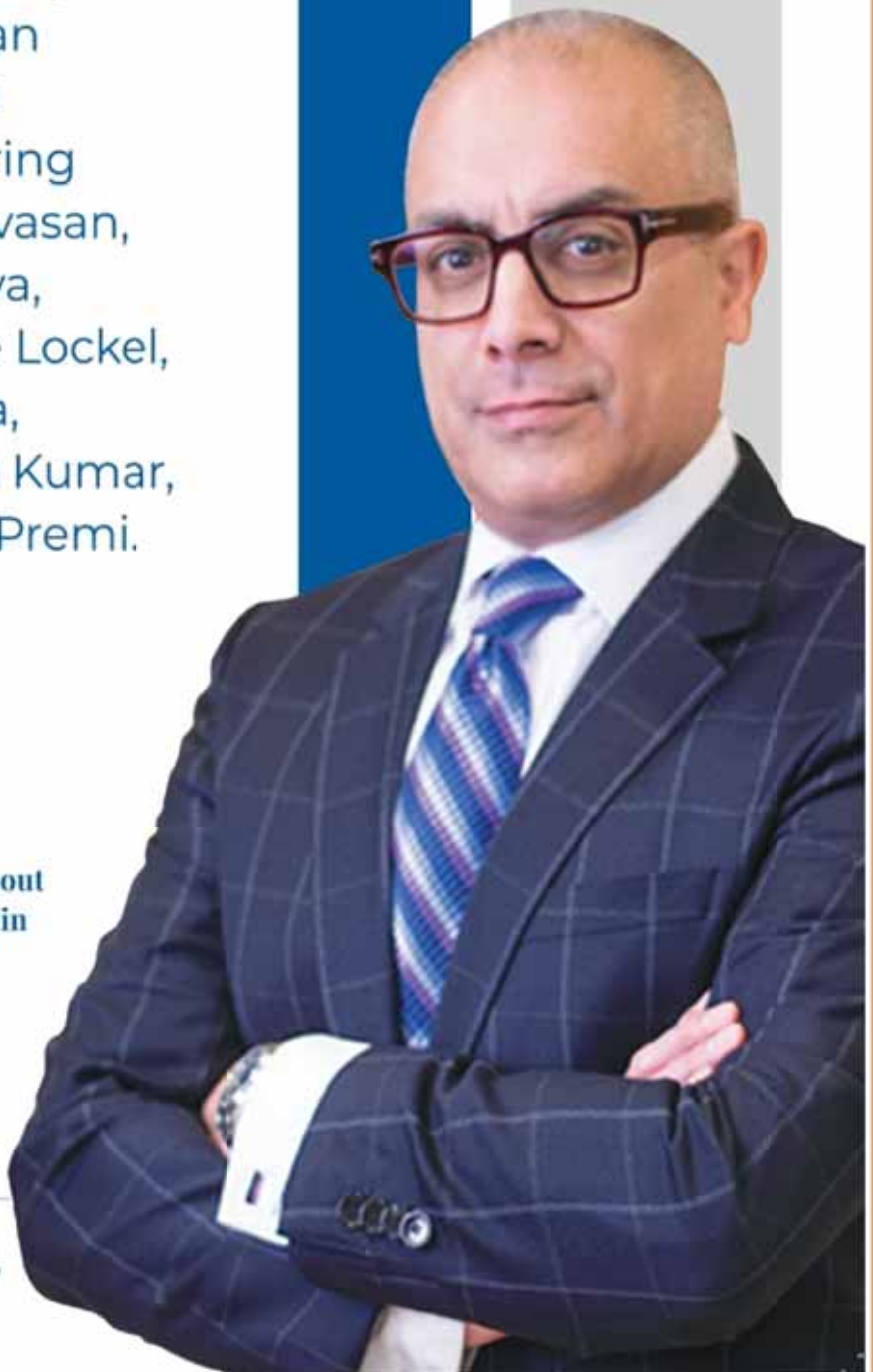
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