Together we Create a Footprint to move towards the Brightest, most Purposeful Future.





**#TRIBUTE24IW** 

## A Tribute to 24 Successful Indian Women in USA

## July 17, 2021 6:00 pm PST

6906 Orozco Drive, Riverside,CA 92506

Spectacular Live & Virtual Event



Non-Profit 501(C)(3)

CEO/Founder Ms. Vasu Pawar

### **Stepping Up to a Brighter Future**

#### OUR MISSION

Guide young adults to financial success and support their entrepreneurial dreams to reality

#### OUR GOAL

Education as a lifetime investment:

Make education fun to encourage youth to complete high school/college Help our students comprehend that entrepreneurship helps achieve personal dreams come true, live self-sufficient and independent lives.

Successful graduates find a career after graduation, rather than face the tedium of student loan debt throughout life.

Involve educational institutions:

Recognize talents, expertise and abilities of students.

Promote Step2StepUp entrepreneurial strategy and program in every high school, college and university, to change the current educational system, which has limited benefits to students upon graduation.

Personal development for entrepreneurs:

Develop interpersonal skills by respecting/assisting others

Experience success to feel confidence, loved, appreciated and recognized, especially for those from homes, which are not conducive to success.

Students who are engaged in bringing their entrepreneurial dreams to reality, are busy with success, rather than involved in school shootings, suicidal thoughts, depression, and live substance abusive-free lives.

Community benefits:

Student success is a "step" to eradicate poverty in the community.

Helps create jobs for under-utilized members of the community, such as veterans, homeless and physically challenged.

Access to success:

Connect our entrepreneurs to venture capitalists to invest in outstanding entrepreneurial projects and ideas and take their inventions to the next level.

See the possibility of success.

A place to start – new entrepreneurs often do not have access to funding. We connect them with those who have done it before and have a vested interest in funding the new project to fruition.

## **THE BRIDGE 2 UNITY**

Together we Create a Footprint to move towards the Brightest, most Purposeful Future.



## **#TRIBUTE24IW**

#### A Tribute to 24 Successful Indian Women in USA

#### **Spectacular Live & Virtual Event**

July 17, 2021 6:00 pm PST

6906 Orozco Drive, Riverside, CA 92506

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### **Event Highlights**



INDUSTRY EXPERT TESS CACCIATORE CEO GWEN

SPECIAL GUEST

SHEKHAR RAHATE

**Fashion Designer** 



INDUSTRY EXPERT ISABELLA HOFMANN Actress



ENTERTAINMENT MONA SHAIKH Stand Up Comedian



KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. SHELLIE HIPSKY CEO, Editor in Chief



TRAILER PREMIERE E-RICKSHAWALI 2021 Director, Ruhi Hak



EMCEE SHRINA KURANI Vice President Business



ENTERTAINMENT SHAHID MALLYA Bollywood Singer



SPECIAL GUEST OMI VAIDYA Actor



ENTERTAINMENT THE HASHBROWNS Music Band



KIRAN, the protagonist of 'E-Rickshawali 2021' will be given the STEP2HOPE award for her resilience, and for being a symbol of strength and perseverance of Indian Women.

The Office of the Indian Consulate General will be represented at the event to honor 24 Indian women from United States of America making a positive impact globally and award them.

VASU PAWAR Founder, Step2StepUp 760-220-6004 TributelW2021@gmail.com LINK FOR TICKETS https://tinyurl.com/Tribute24IW





## Message from – Vasu Pawar, Convener

There was a time, not too long ago, when women were not expected to do much more than give birth, cook, and clean. Today, we do all that and so much more. Take a moment to look around the room, so you too can be a witness to some of the strongest, most intelligent, and inspiring women in the world. Throughout my years as a college student, career professional and community leader, I have met thousands of powerful women who have inspired me to rise high and fight for what I believe in. I have worked hard throughout my tenure to set an example of excellence for my own children, because hard work does not come without sacrifice. I am proud to bring you the First Annual, TRIBUTE24IW, so that together, we can grow stronger as a community through inspiration, education, and a business savvy skillset.

**TRIBUTE24IW** (a **Tribute** to **24 I**ncredible **W**omen) is brought to you by Step2StepUp Inc, a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization geared at uplifting & guiding young entrepreneurs around the nation. TRIBUTE24IW aims to bringing 24 Masterminds together to communicate, collaborate and celebrate their individual accomplishments. TRIBUTE24IW is part of Step2StepUp Inc's Bridge to Unity campaign which seeks to unite women of different backgrounds, industries, skill sets, motivations, nationalities, goals, and interests, all over our great nation, by way of education, motivation, and networking so we can all learn and grow exponentially.

Each of the 24 dynamic women chosen, have positively impacted their communities, industries, and our nation, in a profound way.

Most business books you pick up, encourage their readers to form a Mastermind group with like-minded driven individuals. If you are looking to collaborate with some of the strongest business leaders in the USA, you will not want to miss TRIBUTE24IW.

Step2StepUp Inc has chosen the Ashoka Chakra as their powerhouse symbol of optimal success. The Ashoka Chakra is essentially the Wheel of Progress at the center of the Indian flag. Each spoke on the Wheel of Progress represents one of the 24 essential principles in leading a meaningful life. The 24 principles include chastity, health, peace, sacrifice, morality, service, forgiveness, love, friendship, fraternity, organization, welfare, prosperity, industry, safety, awareness, equality, purpose, policy, justice, co-operation, duties, rights, and wisdom.

My sincere thanks to our Honorable Consul General of India, San Francisco, Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad, for his wonderful message to our 24 honorees and appreciating our theme of the Ashoka Chakra. Your message of encouragement will prompt our honorees and the Conveners to do even bigger and better things in the community.

We appreciate the Mayor of Riverside, Patricia Lock Dawson, and Congressman of Riverside, Mark Takano, for the certificates of recognition presented to each of our 24 honorees, including the Convener, for their profound and positive impact on our Communities, Industries, and the Nation.

All attendees at TRIBUTE24IW will receive a complimentary e-book entitled, 'The 14 Steps Forward', by Chanel Beery, which was written as a tribute to Vasu Pawar by her daughter. Attendees will also receive a collaboration contact list for all business leaders in attendance, a post event invite to 3 Mastermind zoom calls focused on growing your business and a healthy lifestyle guide to improve your overall mental & physical performance as a leader. We encourage you to bring your business cards and a thirst for adventure. Join us for dinner, inspiration, and entertainment.

If you know of other incredible women who you believe deserve to be recognized at the next TRIBUTE24IW event, email us at step2stepupinc@gmail.com. Together we create a Footprint to move towards the Brightest, Most Purposeful Future.



SMITA VASANT SMITA VASANT



**ARTI MANEK** 



**RANI KUUSTO** 



RUHI (ROHINI) HAK



HARSHI GILL



**DR. VARSHINI MURALIKRISHNAN** 



AISHVARYA NIDHI



CHARU SHIVKUMARAN



DR. ROSE MURALIKRISHNAN DR. SINDHURI JAISINGHE



SUMA HAREESH



#### PARVATHI KOTA



**JAYA HEMNANI** 



MONALISA KHANDKE



**HENNA NOOR** 





SHRINA KURANI

Si ANI



#### **KAMLESH CHAUHAN**



PAYAL SAWHNEY



**RADHIKA SHAH** 



DR. MANORAMA GUPTA



**DOLLY OZA** 



**MICHELLE MEHTA** 



**BALJIT KAUR TOOR** 



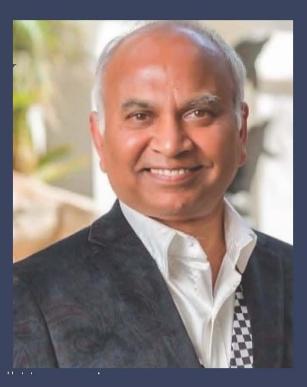
SATTIE PERSAUD

### Tribute to 24 Incredible Women Gallery of Golden Moments



Tribute to 24 Incredible Women Gallery of Golden Moments





Message from the Co-convener, Parimal Shah

#### **Congratulations to all the Honorees**

I am very happy and excited about this 'One of a Kind' event. Indo-American Cultural Society of North America and Step2StepUp Inc., will be recognizing prominent women in our community who have created legacies, overcome obstacles, and who serve as an inspiration to others. Does this sound like women you know in our community?

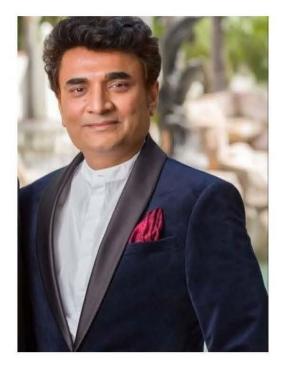
All 24 women have been trailblazers in the community and influential hall of leaders.

"BE THE CHANGE THAT YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD"

Parimal Shah President Indo-American Cultural Society of N.A.







Message from the Co-convener, Yogi Patel Hello everyone!

It gives me great pleasure in welcoming you all here on behalf of our dynamic team who is hosting a memorable event after the terrible COVID period. Indeed, I take full pride to honor today, these highly achieved Indian American Women.

Today's honorees come from all different backgrounds who have struggled days and years to land their feet in our Karma Bhoomi, which is America. Each one of the Honorees show us that nothing is impossible.

Once again, they deserve our round of applause and congratulations

We are to recognize our Indian American successful women today, and at the same time our efforts are always geared to support our local issues and give them our helping hand.

Yogi Patel Secretary Indo-American Cultural Society of America

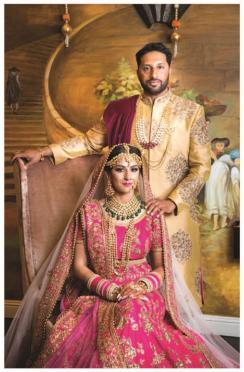


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### SHRINA KURANI – Emcee/Moderator

Shrina Kurani is Vice President, Business at Republic, democratizing access to Capital, through new regulation and technology. She is a fierce believer in the power of innovation to solve the world's most pressing problems and has four years of international experience supporting government projects and startups from London to the Himalayas.

As a mechanical engineer, by training, she loves building the entrepreneurial tech community the same way she builds machines: with a robust foundation and strong purpose. Shrina's first engineering projects were with NASA and the Southern California Gas Company, having earned her B.S. from her hometown's UC Riverside and her M.S. from Sweden's top University for sustainability in Lund. After conducting her research in carbon sequestration of Biomass in the Mediterranean, Shrina became involved in the United Nations Climate Change conferences following the Paris Agreement at COP21. She has since participated in climate negotiations in Marrakech, Bonn, and Katowice.

Shrina turns to entrepreneurship as a mechanism to level the playing field: first as the CEO and co-founder of FoodNest focusing on decreasing food waste in the supply chain through image recognition, and then, continued on to the founding team of the World Bee Project supporting the creation of sustainable alternative livelihoods, around the world, before landing on the founding team of Sutro, a recently acquired startup monitoring water quality through microfluidics. Shrina joined the investment team at Better Ventures in early 2017, an early stage, venture capital firm, focusing backing companies building a better world. Shrina helped build the foundation of Better Venture's investment thesis in sustainability and the future of food, while driving diversity and inclusion in the investment ecosystem. At Republic, Shrina leads the platform-wide projects focused on generating access to innovation, capital, and investment opportunities. For the most recent election cycle, Shrina helped build "They See Blue" an organization empowering South Asians across the U.S. to leverage their culture identity to get out the vote across the community.

#### INSPIRINGLIVESMAGAZINE.COM S.HIPSKY@INSPIRINGLIVESMAGAZINE.COM (412) 770-3126

**Dr. Shellie Hipsky** is the CEO of Inspiring Lives International and the president of the nonprofit 501 (c)(3) the Global Sisterhood, a charity that guides and supports women and girls toward their dreams and goals. Dr. Shellie has earned the titles of "Entrepreneur of the Year in Inspiration and Empowerment," the "Women of Achievement Award," "Best Woman in Business," and "VIP Woman of the Year." Three of her 13 published books, based on 100 amazing interviews from her Empowering Women Radio show, the Common Threads trilogy focused on Inspiration, Empowerment, and Balance, earned international bestseller status. The former tenured professor of Ph.D. students and host of Inspiring Lives with Dr. Shellie on NBC has keynoted internationally from Passion to Profits in Hollywood to The University of Oxford in England and now teaches her signature EmpowerU Master Class, making the world her classroom. This powerful entrepreneur and influencer is the founder and editorin-chief of Inspiring Lives Magazine: The Magazine for Empowering Women.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH:

DR.SHELLIE

hellie 1

Dr. Shellie Hipsky proudly addresses The TRIBUTE24IW (a Tribute to 24 Incredible Women) Event, by Step2StepUp Inc, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization geared at uplifting & guiding young entrepreneurs around the nation to communicate, collaborate and celebrate their individual wins!

eynote lopic

Dr. Shellie believes that "Inspiration is just a story away!"

CEO KEYNOTE AUTHOR

SHELLIEHIPSKY

SHELLIE.HIPSKY

#### **CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA**





#### MESSAGE

I would like to congratulate the initiative of honouring women achievers in various fields. The vital role of women in a society needs no emphasis. As per the old sacred scripts "Yatra naryastu pujyante ramante tatra Devata" meaning "Where Women are revered, the Divinity blossoms".

I appreciate the hardwork put in by Conveners of this particular initiative Ms. Vasu Pawar, CEO, Founder Step2Stepup Inc., Ms. Parimal Shah, President of Indo-American Cultural Society of North America and Ms. Yogi Patel, Secretary of Indo-American Cultural Society of North America in making this initiative successful.

I am also happy to note that the theme chosen to pay tribute to 24 successful women relates to the number of spokes in the Ashoka Chakra representing 24 virtues. Women play a critical role not only in bonding of family but the society in general. In India, besides successful entrepreneurs we saw the role played by them in successful 'Mangalyan'. Such initiatives are required to encourage more and more women getting into the challenging and ever-changing fields which aid in development of the society.

I once again congratulate all the women who are being honoured at this event and the organizers to continue this wonderful initiative.

(Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad)

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#### CONTACT

SMITA VASANT 714-269-6001 SNEHA RAMU 302-345-2820









### **SMITA VASANT**

Sacrifice

Smita Vasant, a former Mrs. Asia USA, is the founder of Neemo's Exotic Ice Cream and Saffron Spot, which features her exotic ice cream creations. Smita's ice cream business has been featured in numerous newspapers and magazines such as Bon Apetit, Los Angeles Times, Orange Coast Magazine, and the LA Weekly. She participates in many community activities and mentors other women business owners. An avid fashion blogger, she is also the founder of LA India Fashion Week, an annual event that promotes and celebrates Indian fashion. Smita has a Master's Degree in Industrial Psychology.

"The next generation should take care of the earth and environment — being more mindful of what they do and how they do to take care of the earth — recycle, reuse, waste less and make it a safe and less toxic for future generations."

# Congratulations to Vasu Pawar & Team



## **Arun Bhumitra**







### AISHVARYAA NIDHI

Safety

Aishveryaa Nidhi is an actress, an artistic director, a filmmaker and conservationist of both Indian culture and the Hindi language, but most significantly, she is an unwavering community activist. Aish's award-winning works reflect the incredible diversity and beauty of Indian culture. She dedicated her life to keeping the Indian culture thriving in Sydney and brought the same passion and undying spirit to LA. Aish has created opportunities for fellow Indians to creatively develop and represent their talents at her nonprofit organization, Abhinay School of Performing Arts.

"Abhinay School of Performing Arts was conceived with a holistic aim to encourage the next generation to catch their rich cultural roots through theatre art and learning the Hindi language to be one with great Indian heritage."



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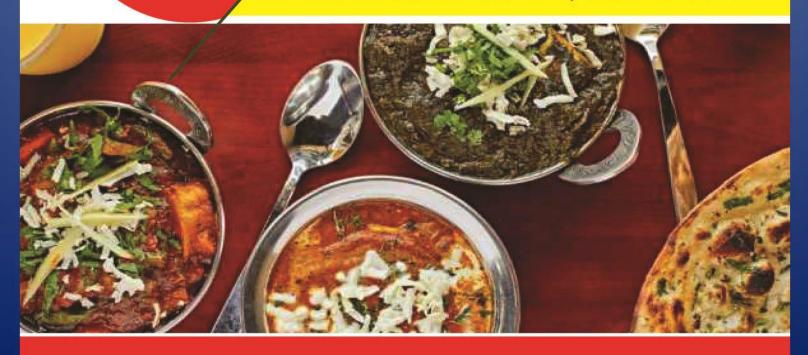
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### **MONALISA KHANDKE**

**#TRIBUTE24IW** 

## Justice

Monalisa Khandke is a makeup artist, dance choreographer, model and community activist. She was born in a small village and came to the United States with her husband approximately 5 years ago. She was honored as the first youngest woman president of Shivaji Maharaj America Parivar, Georgia (SMAP Foundation) and started the first-ever historical Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti celebration in the state of Georgia. She also received the "2018 Women of Distinction, USA" award and the Mrs. India World Worldwide 2017 as titleholder for the "Most Beautiful Eyes". She was also nominated for Atlanta's Hottest Model Award 3 years in a row.

"My mission is to promote the teachings of Veermata Jijabai, which dictates that "If we can teach self-confidence to our children they can achieve anything in this world."

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### **RADHIKA SHAH**

Cooperation

Radhika Shah is currently a pre-medical student at Stanford University. At 16, she founded Real Autism Difference 501c3 and has raised over \$100,000 for her initiative to benefit kids with autism in the S. Nevada Community. In 2018, she was appointed by Governor Sandoval to serve as the youngest Youth Commissioner for the state of NV on the Nevada Volunteers Board. Most recently, she was crowned Miss World Nevada 2020 and competed in the National Miss World America competition. Radhika has been featured on the front cover of My Vegas Magazine as a Top 100 Women of Influence, has received numerous national service recognitions including the George H.W. Bush Daily Points of Light Award, and is an avid public speaker.

"Never be afraid to push yourself out of your comfort zone. That is where the most amount of growth happens."



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### **ARTI MANEK**

#### Industry

Arti Manek has a passion for training amateurs of any age, to perform like a professional on stage in the form of folk and Kathak dances. She was recipient of numerous 1st place awards in Raas/Garba Folk Dance Competitions. Upon attaining her personal training in the U.K. under Guru Abhay Shankar Mishra, Arti established Shankara Dance Academy (SDA). After moving to L.A., she organized and produced several Folk-Dance Dramas. SDA's first student's Rang Manch Pravesh, was gracefully attended by legendary Padma Bhushan Pundit Birju Maharaj! She is also the recipient of the National Federation of Indian Associations award for performing and promoting classical art form.

"The skill of turning "Rough Diamonds" into Precious Gems is my unique talent that should be applied to American – born Youth to bring out the best in them."



### Congratulations to Tonight's Extraordinary Honorees



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## **#TRIBUTE24IW**



### **CHARU SHIVAKUMARAN**

#### **Rights**

Charu Shivakumar has worked for over twenty years for humanitarian causes including, community-based rehabilitation disability issues, women's empowerment, youth leadership and other projects. She has a Masters in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology and a Masters, in Organizational Leadership from Woodbury University in California. She is the founder of Excel Foundation, a non-profit organization to enhance education, eradicate poverty, conserve nature and give aid to seniors. She is also the founder of ELIKE, a youth leadership project and ELIGHT, an adult-focused project. She is the Vice President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America, Los Angeles chapter, and a Member of the Governing Council of the World Hindu Council of America. She resides in Los Angeles with her husband and three children.

"Equip future generation with knowledge and skills, educate them to understand the challenges that global society faces today, and have them participate in discussions to brainstorm ideas to solve these issues."



#### ABOUT THE COMPANY

At Ideo we are designers and researchers who passionately believe that everyone should have thoughtfully designed environments that nourish and sustain their lives. We do this by working across disciplines to manifest social change and reenvision the places we work play and gather.

We believe that public interest design taps into our innate desire to create spaces that form healthy containers for our lives. Our job is to facilitate the manifestation of those needs and pass on the tools for empowerment through good design.







### **HENNA NOOR**

Service

Henna Noor is a 22-year-old student and dental assistant that is currently working towards becoming a dentist. She founded the 'Random Acts of Kindness Club' at her college and when the pandemic began, she created a singing YouTube channel and the 'You Are Not Alone podcast'. She enjoys reading, playing the guitar, singing and public speaking. She is passionate about vulnerability and starting discussions about the real world of mental health. Her motto is: "Life is a team sport!"

"In order, for the next generation to have a purposeful future she states, "Follow your gut and put yourself first. Only then will you have the strength and tools to move mountains for others."



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July 15, 2021

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Special site inspections were made during construction of Coal Fired Power Generation Plant at Delta Utah.

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#### Community Services

Artesia Chamber of Commerce – Vice President Home Owner Association of La Habra – Vice President Cerritos College Foundation – Board Member and Donor Indian American Senior Heritage – Vice President

#### Musician Capacity

Playing Electronic Keyboard music for religious festivities and personal events. Teaching music to seniors for free.







### **DR. MANORAMA GUPTA**

#### Friendship

Manorama Gupta is a retired, board certified OB/GYN and cosmetic surgeon. She has served her community by volunteering in many different organizations. She has been the Chairwoman and President of the Indian Medical Assn. of Southern California as well as an Advisory Board Member of outpatient surgery center of Fountain Valley Hospital and the founder and president of Global Peace Foundation, Inc., among numerous other awards and accolades.

Her message to the younger generation is to "work hard and you can achieve anything in life and give back to the community."



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### **RANI KUUSTO**

Welfare

Soruba Rani Kuusto is a retired Nurse Consultant from the State of California Dept. of Corrections. She has over 35 years of nursing experience. She received her B.Sc. in Nursing from the S.N.D.T. College of Nursing in Mumbai, India and her MPH from Cal-State Long Beach, California. Since retiring, she volunteers her time in the community with helping the homeless and educating the community about diabetes, heart disease and other topics. She is currently Co-Chairperson for the Health and Wellness Council of GOPIO-International and Secretary of GOPIO-Los Angeles. She also serves as Club Services Chairperson for the Fullerton Host Lions Club.

"I will empower the next generation of today to work as powerful creators and advocates for unity with purpose so they can strive together to achieve success in their goals; shape the systems of the environment and educational future and make a difference in being a mentor to the next generation of youth."

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- 3. COMMUNITY DEVELPOMENT



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## **#TRIBUTE24IW**



### **DR. ROSE MURALIKRISHNAN**

Prosperity

Among the Music of India aficionado of California, the name Dr. Rose Muralikrishnan is tantamount for rigor, innovation, and purity. She holds Doctorate in Music & has been a tireless Vocal Guru, for the past 35 years. She is an active music practitioner for over four decades and performed in Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall & Shrine Ausitorium to name a few. Under her abled guidance Spring Nectar Ensemble won Gold Awards at several International Music Festivals.

Dr. Muralikrishnan was an Adjunct professor at the World Music Department, San Diego State University, CA in 1991-92. She served as the Principal of the Music School in India and was a music instructor at the famous Rishi Valley School, India where she taught music along with her legendary Guru Dr. M. L. Vasanth Kumari. She taught more than 5000 Students several of them are full time musicians. Dr. Rose Muralikrishnan is a Founder & CEO of Spring Nectar Foundation for Indian Music & Heritage, a 501(c) (3) Non Profit Organization and Spring Nectar TV is a new born Internet TV Channel launched in March 2021. www.springnectartv.com

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### **DR. SINDURI JAISINGHE**

#### Equality

Dr. Kalaimamani Sinduri started her dance career as a child prodigy and quickly became an internationally acclaimed Indian classical dancer who is now based in Los Angeles. She carries a Doctorate in Bharathanatyam and Kuchipudi and is also very well versed in all the folk dances of India. She has done over 2500 performances across the globe. She has been running Savithri Arts Academy in L.A. since 1997. She has also sponsored many cultural events for the community for the last 23 years.

> "The future generation should work hard with full confidence and success will be yours."

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### **DOLLY OZA**

#### Forgiveness

Dolly Oza is the President and Founder of Pre-Paid USA, a division of USA Connect. Her success with Pre-Paid USA led to many conversations with other women in various fields of work who grapple with finding the right balance between their work and their personal life.

Ms. Oza created her own talk show titled, The Inspirational Woman, a platform to showcase the professional accomplishments of women, from the famous to the household success, and create a space where women can discuss their shared experiences and provide insight and advice to other women in their respective industries. She also enjoys spending time with her husband, two daughters and their adorable dog.

"I would like to encourage our next generation to explore the opportunities that brings out the best version of themselves, advise them not to be afraid to take risk, or to have fear of being judged by others. I would like to create a networking platform where they are guided to make the important decisions of their career and life."



### HOPE B~LIT "Placing a light in every woman & child's Heart"

HOPE B~LIT, a global non-profit founded by Ruhi aka Rohini Hak, that champions the cause of women and children of the world. As beacons of hope, we have conducted effort's to empower and enable communities across the world. Our volunteers have served in multiple continents covering over 23 villages in India, 19 in Africa, cities in Mexico and across the USA assisting & providing services by constructing water tanks, running oral care, treatment & hygiene camps, self esteem and reproductive workshops. With our three wings - Education, Wish Upon A Smile & A Voices Unheard Films we have done impactful grass root level work & given a voice to those who are ignored in order to illuminate important social issues surrounding children & women globally. We HOPE to make a difference not only by listening, but by being the force of change on the ground. We want the suffering communities to know they'll be heard. There's still hope... THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE. We maintain a Zero administration cost structure with a 100 percent volunteer based model. This is to ensure each cent donated is given entirely to the cause. Children and Women are at the heart of all we do.

For Volunteering Contact: <u>Hopeblit@gmail.com</u> General Queries Call: (1)3109626974 Donate: <u>https://www.hopeblit.com/donate.html</u> Instagram:@hopeblit FB: <u>@blitnow</u>







### **RUHI HAK**

Love

Ruhi (Rohini) Hak is the founder of Hope B-LIT (Holistic Opportunities and Purpose of Education Be Lit), a volunteer-driven LA-based non-profit organization championing children's and women's causes across the globe. She is an engineer by profession and an award-winning director, writer, musician, and producer of films highlighting global issues and raising awareness via fictional stories and documentaries under her production — "A Voices Unheard Films" that inspire positive change.

Ruhi holds a Master's in Business Administration, majoring in International Business Strategy, from the University of Technology Sydney, Australia and is certified in Education in Human Values from ISSE-USA at UC Santa Barbara. She has spearheaded ground initiatives & programs under the umbrella of 'HOPE BEYOND BORDERS' & 'Wish Upon A Smile' globally and has conducted over 3000 workshops in varied subjects for children and parents in USA, India, Mexico, Africa and other parts of the world and been invited to do workshops at UTLA (United Teachers Los Angeles) conferences.

"I believe being your authentic self, realizing we are all unique and living with empathy is essential to empower the new generation. One global world — Knowing we are all connected and caring unconditionally for others beyond your own backyard will lead to a progressive & thriving future."

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## **#TRIBUTE24IW**



### **SUMA HAREESH**



Health

Suma Hareesh grew up in a small village in Southern India and was strongly influenced by her grandparents, who developed her helping nature. After coming to America, she became a volunteer at several well-known organizations, including the American Cancer Society and Feeding America. She became President of the Riverside, CA, mandir and also became President of the India Association of the Inland Empire. She is currently the Vice President of the Veerashaiva Samaja of North America (VSNA) and Secretary of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin – Inland Empire (GOPIO - IE). says that "Giving back to the community is my passion, gives me purpose and allows me to help those who are less fortunate. Doing community service enables me to become a better person to society and to my family."

"Life is full of challenges. When life gives you a difficult situation, you can always find something positive from the experience. Making mistakes is part of life, as long as we learn from them. What's important is learning about where you came from and your culture. Being culturally aware is a valuable thing you can use throughout your life to better connect with others."





## VM Pharmacy Congratulations to all 24 Women We keep them healthy! Jignesh Mehta







#### SHRINA KURANI

Shrina is Vice President, Business, at Republic and the Executive Director for Republic Cities and Communities. She is a mechanical engineer by training and loves building the entrepreneurial tech community the same way she builds machines: with a robust foundation and strong purpose. She completed her senior design project with NASA and has worked with government projects and startups from London to the Himalayas, and prior to Republic she helped start three companies with one recent exit. Most recently, Shrina was on the investment team at Better Ventures, focused on deal sourcing and raising their third fund. She is a fierce believer in the power of innovation to solve the world's most pressing problems, and enthusiastic about seeking out and supporting ideas to make them successful.





### **DR. VARSHINI MURALIKRISHNAN**

Founder of TMD Studios, The Musical Doc is a powerhouse talent, singer, songwriter, performer and producer. She has achieved prestigious accomplishments featured in Rolling Stones Magazine, BBC Radio, TV/Film She is a soloist and a featured performer at respectable platforms like Hollywood Bowl, Sydney Opera House, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Carnegie Hall, The United Nations Headquarters.

#### WWW.IAMTHEMUSICALDOC.COM

## **#TRIBUTE24IW**





### DR. VARSHINI MURALIKRISHNAN

Wisdom

Dr. Varshini Muralikrishnan more popularly known as "THE MUSICAL DOC" curates an exceptional genre of music by fueling inspiration and innovation to amplify diversity, soul and higher consciousness through her artistic philosophy. This sensational singer songwriter is on the rise to stardom; with multiple features in world class entities like Rolling Stone Magazine, India, featured track of the week on BBC Radio, gaining popularity in both Local and International Media, the possibilities for how far this artist can go is endless. Born and bred into a family of musical connoisseurs, The Musical Doc's identity and upbringing was defined through Classical Indian music and the gospel church choir. The Musical Doc – a powerhouse talent, singer, songwriter, performer and producer, genuinely strives to make an impact globally through artistic expression, awareness and education. She has achieved prestigious accomplishments as a soloist and a featured performer, utilizing the respectable platforms of Hollywood Bowl, Sydney Opera House, Walt Disney Concert Hall, The United Nations Headquarters and much more to mesmerize audiences.

"I Truly believe striking a harmonious balance between your internal and external environment and empowering your inner voice will help you flow through the one constant in life, "change". The more kind, at peace, empowered, honest, and fearless we are in our internal environment, the more we are unbothered by the plethora of change that is inevitable in our external environment. Learn to bend so you will never be in a position where you can break."











### **MICHELLE MEHTA**

Chastity

Michelle Mehta is an alumna of Cal State Fullerton. "She has overcome unthinkable obstacles and is one of the most successful teen coaches in 2020", according to ABC Television. Yahoo Finance named her as one of the "Top 11 Female Coaches to Follow" in 2021. Ms. Mehta speaks to teens all over the country about overcoming peer pressure, bullying and low self-worth by increasing their confidence to live a life they fully love and admire every single day. James Haven (Angelina Jolie's brother) states, "What we see in our world are coaches who train themselves based on old or new ways, but still in a formulaic way. Michelle does not do this. Michelle listens and then coaches. There is no greater way, and that is the most important compliment I can give her." She is also a Teen Confidence Expert, TEDx Speaker, 2 times international best-selling author and a celebrity coach.

"I would contribute towards a purposeful future by creating systems to improve mental and emotional health in teenagers. The ideas that trigger my mind are focused around reducing anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts in our future generation."













### HARSHI GILL

Policy

Harshi Syal Gill was born and raised in Kenya, Africa. She completed her graduate and post-graduate studies in Literature at the University of Nairobi. Over the years, she has contributed to a multitude of book reviews, critical essays for broadcast, print and digital Medias, also edits manuscripts of different genres. Her poetry has been published in several anthologies and literary magazines and in her book, Reflections. She has co-written a book titled, African Quilt-Stories of the Asian Indian Experience in Kenya, and a play, God Minus: Buddha - The Light of Asia. She also collaborated with Indian actor, Parikshat Sahni, on a book, The Non-Conformist, on the life of his iconic actor father, Balraj Sahni.

"Amidst all the challenges that our youth face, we need to remind them to stay in touch with their spiritual core; to take a moment to look inwards; to find a moment of silence and nothingness; to reach that vast, open space of peace and tranquility within which will inspire and rejuvenate."















#### **PARVATHI KOTA**

#### **Duties**

Parvathi Kota, Ph.D., J.D. was born in a small town in Andhra Pradesh, India, and was the first woman in her family to graduate from college. Against all odds and with her parents and teachers' support, she went on to receive her doctorate degree in Life Sciences from the University of Hyderabad. Twenty years ago, she came to the United States for post-doctoral research and worked with the Nobel Laureate Professor, Har Gobind Khoran, at MIT as a research scientist. She later received her law degree from Fordham University School of Law in New York. She is now a Partner at Parlatore Law Group and practices patent law.

"The next generation will tremendously benefit from empowering women and youth through education, encouragement, mentoring, and increasing diversity in the STEM fields."











### **#TRIBUTE24IW**



### **KAMLESH CHAUHAN**

Peace

Kamlesh Chauhan (Gauri) was born in India. After her marriage in 1970 she came to USA. She is the mother of two beautiful children. She attended Long Beach University. She is a Novelist, Poetess, and has authored many books dealing with domestic violence and reincarnation.

She is the founder of Jagriti (Awakening) dealing with Domestic Violence. She produced a short movie "MA" and received an award at the film festivals. Kashmir is an integral part of India where women were harassed and kidnapped by terrorists. She has been speaking on terrorism in Kashmir for past many years.

Kamlesh Chauhan (Gauri) was awarded an Elite Woman Award; Her Hindi novels brought her recognition in India and USA which won her the "Woman of the Year" award.

"Through my Jagriti organization, I want to bring awareness to the domestic violence issue which still exists even in the 21 st. Century."















#### **BALJIT KAUR TOOR**

Morality

Baljit Toor is a Southern Californian resident and community activist. Baljit received her master's degree from Punjab University, Chandigarh. She has worked at the Edward-Dean Museum for over 30 years and is currently the curator of the Museum. She has worked as an educator both in India and the United States to assist children with disabilities. Currently she is the executive Vice president of GOPIO – IE. She has served as the President of Indian Association of Inland Empire. She is a board member of Vishwa Hindu Parishad Redlands, Norco-Corona Area Interfaith, Redlands Cultural Art Commission and the Museum of Redlands. Baljit has the ability to promote positive change in communities and individuals through advocacy.

"Stay connected to nature. Money will come and go, we need to save and protect this earth for future generations. Humanity is the key for life. "Be a good citizen of the world."









## **#TRIBUTE24IW**



### **JAYA HEMNANI**



Patience

Jaya was born in India, and lives in Los Angeles since the past 20 years. She has a degree in Graphic Design and an established career of 25 years as an Art director.

Jaya has learned Bharatanatyam and her passion for dance lives in her paintings. The vibrant colors, detailed ornaments, expressions, stunning use of light and shade, transparency and reflection, and the surreal photo-like quality make each painting come to life.

Although oil is her favorite medium, she also uses Acrylics, Watercolor, Pastels, Pencils and even mix media. She has held various exhibitions of her work in California.

As an Art Director and has worked in companies like TCS, Sony Studios, CMM, and is currently working for United Scope.

"As life is getting more and more hectic, it becomes difficult to balance between work and your passion. Somehow, I have managed. I would advise the next generation to follow their passion, no matter how difficult it gets, because at the end of the day it will let you live a happy life."













### PAYAL SAWHNEY

Organization

Payal is a licensed Mental Health practitioner and social worker with over 20 years' experience. She worked in India and various cities across the U.S., including New York, Chicago, Cincinnati, and most recently Los Angeles.

Payal's current responsibility is that of being the founder President of SAAHAS (Courage) for Cause, a nonprofit dedicated to educating, empower, and enable South Asian immigrants to uplift their quality of life. SAAHAS is run collectively by a group of volunteers. She works on issues related to older adults, women, youth, and community health. In her clinical role within SAAHAS she personally provides pro-bono services to immigrants of South Asian origin that are victims of DV or SA. Payal uses a trauma informed Cognitive Behavioral therapy and Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing therapy, for her clients battling trauma.

"Educating, Empowering, and Enabling South Asian Immigrants to uplift their quality of life."



### **Divine Soul Rami**

Divine Soul Rami is an extraordinary person, an enlightened spiritual Guru, and a leader, 44 years of age, who possesses wisdom, knowledge, passion, and unconditional love for humanity. Auspiciously, she was born with a gift of premonition (sixth sense). Rami has been predicting many disasters in the world including the corona virus pandemic. Rami reached enlightenment five years ago at age 39. Rami is Indian descent, from Kolkata. She is an American citizen, resident of CA for last 30 years. Rami is a commercial airline pilot, has a Master of Business Administration – MBA degree, and now is working towards a Doctoral degree, Ph.D. Rami has been involved in many women's organizations, volunteered in numerous nonprofit organizations. Since childhood, she has had a burning desire to make a difference in the world. She is opening a Non-Profit Organization in Kolkata, India. She is a firm believer in equality and justice for all. Rami is one of those rare individuals who is humble, confident and stands above



**#TRIBUTE24IW** 

### SATTIE PERSAUD



Purpose

Sattie Persaud is currently the Senior Foreign Exchange Manager at Otis.

Non-profit world: Sattie Persaud is the award-winning founder of World Heritage Cultural Center (WHCC), based in the United States. Persaud, an 8TH generation woman of Indian descent, born in Guyana encourages the power of unity in diversity through WHCC, which she began in 2005. Through WHCC, cultural identity bolsters diversity. The organization has grown exponentially, showcasing over 800 cultural groups globally in 245 concerts. The value of the work, WHCC has done would amount to over \$35 million. This herculean task was achieved by Persaud without any grants or funding but by creating an impressive global network of inspired contributors. WHCC is a major influencer in the realm of cultural awareness, shifting focus from religion and politics to the arts to facilitate transformation in our society.

"Each generation adds to the legacy of its ancestors. When people lose sight of their cultural roots, ancestry, and personal heritage, they lose sight of their True Identity. I believe culture is the gateway into our humanity, as it emphasizes the unity of our diversity."



"I'm a first-generation American whose parents came to the United States seeking opportunity. Now I'm running for Congress to make Washington work better so we can build an Inland Empire where all people feel safe and have the chance to live the American Dream."

— Shrina Kurani

#### **MEET SHRINA KURANI**

Shrina Kurani is an engineer, entrepreneur, and fact-based problem solver, not a politician. A daughter of Indian immigrants, Shrina's father earned a chemistry degree in India but in the Inland Empire, he found work in swimming pool maintenance. While Shrina's parents worked seven days a week for 10 years, with a young Shrina and her brother helping after school and in the summers, Shrina learned the values of hard work, hustle, and resourcefulness. If elected, she will be the first South Asian California Congresswoman in history.

- Born and raised in Riverside, Shrina has focused her career on making things work better by building businesses that reduce waste and create quality jobs. Her efforts have directed \$500 million to new businesses across the nation, including \$2 million in the Inland Empire.
- Shrina worked her way through UC Riverside to earn a degree in mechanical engineering, including her design project with NASA and taking on a job encouraging businesses to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.
- Shrina applied her engineering approach to help start businesses aimed at reducing waste and creating sustainable solutions for food and water, and she advised startup companies that are developing ways to make healthcare and education more affordable and equitable.
- Most recently, Shrina has been building a company to increase opportunities by focusing on addressing disparities in the funding of startup businesses founded by women and people of color.

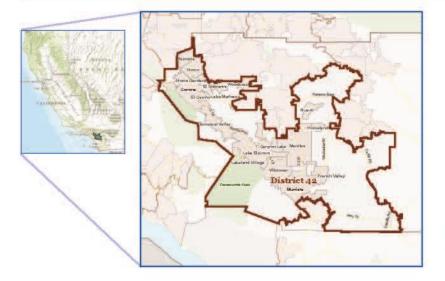








#### CALIFORNIA'S CHANGING 42ND DISTRICT



Based in California's Inland Empire, the 42<sup>nd</sup> District was the fastestgrowing district in the state with Democratic voter registration growing steadily over the past decade. **Redistricting experts** have noted the district will change significantly with a new map and is likely to become even more competitive.



"GOP Rep. Ken Calvert's 42<sup>nd</sup> CD will need to shed about 80,000 people, the most in the state. Calvert's Riverside County district voted for Trump by seven points in 2020 (down from 12 points in 2016) and could lose some of its reddest precincts to GOP Rep. Darrell Issa's 50<sup>th</sup> CD. Or it could even get pushed north into Chino in San Bernardino County, making it even more competitive."

#### WHY SHRINA WINS

**THE RIGHT MOTIVATION** — Shrina is passionate about working to create more opportunities for people in the Inland Empire to have fulfilling jobs. She is rooted in the values of hard work and has dedicated her career to making things work better.



**THE RIGHT PROFILE** — As an engineer, entrepreneur, and native of the Inland Empire, Shrina has a background and an approach to creating innovative solutions that will connect well with voters in the district. Her work in building and advising businesses that are reducing waste and helping make healthcare and education more affordable, effective, and equitable create an effective contrast.



**THE RIGHT CAMPAIGN** — Shrina is building a top-notch campaign with some of the most creative and effective campaign professionals in California and the nation who have flipped similar congressional districts, and she is committed to raising the resources necessary to communicate her compelling story and message.

O
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#### SUNIL SADARANGANI

#### Actor/Writer/Producer

Sunil is a Mumbai born, Los Angeles based multiple award-winning producer and writer, having been a part of international digital film projects for over 15 years and worked with productions from the US, India, Sweden, Germany, Lebanon, France, Australia, and the UK. Some of the projects include award-winning feature films 'September Tapes' (First Look Media) and 'The Answer'; international broadcast documentaries 'World Religions' (Al Jazeera Network featuring a two-hour interview with The Dalai Lama), and 'Bollywood Extras' (Swedish National TV) to name a few. He has created and produced award-winning short films 'In Transit' (Shorts TV and OscarÒ nomination qualifier), 'Blind', 'Nova' and 'With You'. He is the co-founder and Director of Programming of the Ojai Short Film Festival, now in its 3rd season. Some of the programming included films of Academy Award nominees and winners, and episodic series content of studio shows such as Sundance TV/AMC Networks' 'This Close'. Sadarangani also oversees publicity, media and community outreach for the film festival. He has been on the jury of the 2019 Los Angeles Greek Film Festival and is a Senior Assistant Programmer at the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles and Outfest, Los Angeles. He has been officially accredited as a writer covering film and digital media at leading film festivals and industry award events such as Sundance Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, LA Film Festival, Colcoa French Film Festival, The Indie Spirit AwardsÒ, The Golden Globe AwardsÒ and The Academy AwardsÒ. In January of 2020, Sunil co-founded Omagination Pictures, a production company that represents and creates film and episodic content of South Asian, Latino and multi-ethnic cultures for the global marketplace. To date, Omagination Pictures has raised two rounds of private financing, signed a 3-project co-production deal with an international studio, and closed global distribution as producer for an Italian language motion picture. Sunil has been recognized by the California State Senate for his ongoing commitment to creativity and innovation in the Los Angeles Community.

Ongoing commitment to creativity and innovation

### Mr. Sohan Joshi

Heartiest Compliments from Mr. Sohan Joshi in Support of the event, 'Tribute to 24 Successful Indian Women in the Nation', organized by our community leader, Ms. Vasu Pawar, CEO/Founder of **Step2Step Up Inc**.'

Past RVP, Pacific South of **NFSA**.

Dr. Sohan Joshi is the resident of Chicago and the past President, Chairman of National Federation of Indian Associations, an Umbrella Organization, in the U.S.



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