



Consulate General of India
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Prathima Reddy

**Born and raised in the vibrant city of
Secunderabad, Hyderabad.**

**Achieved a Bachelor's degree in Computer
Science from the prestigious JNTU.
Professionally thrived at esteemed
companies such as GE and Tech Mahindra.**

**Embarked on professional journeys that
led her to diverse locales including New
Delhi, Hyderabad, Germany, Switzerland,
Vietnam, and the USA.**



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Gail Pellerin

Assemblymember Gail Pellerin was elected to the California State Assembly in November of 2022 to represent the 28th Assembly District.

Served as the chief elections official in Santa Cruz. Served as President of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials.

Gail has a BS in Journalism from Cal Poly. She worked as a campaign assistant to political campaigns, a reporter and photographer, and much more.



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Susan Ellenberg

**Santa Clara County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg
represents District 4.**

**She serves as President of the Board of Supervisors as
well as the Chair of the County's Public Safety and
Justice Committee and the Vice Chair of the Finance
and Government Operations Committee.**

**Member of the California State Association of
Counties Executive Committee and a board member
of FIRST 5 Santa Clara County. Co-chair of Joint
Venture Silicon Valley and on the board of the
National Association of Counties' Justice and Public
Safety Steering Committee.**



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Dr. Anjali Gulati

**President, American Association Of Physicians
Of Indian Origin (AAPIO), Bay Area Chapter**

Dr. Anjali Gulati specializes in cardiovascular medicine, including invasive cardiology. Dr. Gulati assesses each patient's overall health and focuses on cardiovascular problems so she can develop a specialized treatment plan.

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Krithika Bhat

Krithika Bhat Chief Information officer (CIO) at Pure Storage. As CIO at Pure Storage, Krithika Bhat is responsible for driving a technology enabled business transformation, setting overall strategy and defining and executing the roadmap for technology infrastructure and business applications. Bhat has had a long and successful career in technology and has been recognised for her leadership. While at Oracle, she won the Oracle Women's Leadership award for her hard work and exemplary leadership. But her journey has been no easy feat. A woman in technology with a career spanning decades, Krithika has faced and overcome countless challenges and uphill battles throughout her life and in the IT industry. However, she persevered. Krithika is a strong believer that diversity in tech is a game-changer. Not only does it drive better decision-making and faster innovation, but it also leads to products and services that are tailored to the needs of a wider range of customers. Krithika's career serves as proof that breaking down barriers is not only a possibility, but also translates to smart business strategy.

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Dr. Abanti Chaudhuri

Dr. Abanti Chaudhuri was born in Kolkata, India and pursued her medical degree from RG Kar Medical College at Calcutta University. She then moved to England to pursue higher medical education in Pediatrics and completed her DCH (Diploma in child Health) MRCP (Membership of Royal College of Physicians, London) in Pediatrics. Obtaining extensive experience in pediatric medicine for 10 years in England, she then moved to the United States, where she did her pediatric nephrology fellowship at Stanford University and since then have been faculty in pediatric Nephrology at Stanford for a total of 17 years. Currently a Clinical Professor of pediatrics at Stanford University School of Medicine, she is a wellrecognized pediatric nephrologist with national and international reputation, has a special interest in pediatric hypertension and kidney transplantation, with more than 50 peer reviewed publications. She is passionate about the health of ALL children across the world, with a particular interest in giving back to the children of India, the country which provided her with a rich childhood and a strong educational background.



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Anjali Chopra

For 21 years, Anjali Chopra has been the backbone of our Indian Consulate family.

Starting her journey under the mentorship of Consul General Vishwanathan, Anjali's dedication shone through as she worked alongside eight Consul Generals.

Her commitment is unmatched, and she is always ready to support her colleagues and the community.

Beyond her professional life, Anjali finds joy in her family. Blessed with two daughters and two adorable grandchildren.

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Dr. Anjalika Pattanaik

Founder member of Indo American Sevak Foundation (IASF), engaged in disaster relief in Odisha and beyond, food distribution with second harvest food bank, building homes with Habitat for Humanity, reader program in schools in Odisha • Founder member of Caring Hands Foundation, involved in getting built a tribal residential school in Koraput (she personally went there to see what is needed), organic farming in tribal areas, lunch seva in silicon valley • Major supporter of Adruta Children's home for children without birth parents in Odisha. Adruta is doing pioneering work in the field of rehabilitation of the children in need of care and protection. She has visited the school several times and interacts with the children and communicates with them. • Major supporter of Atragamee, a group working with marginalized and under privileged communities in the tribal districts of Odisha. She has visited them in Kashipur, Koraput to see their activities including organic cultivation, women's literacy etc. • Major supporter of Silicon valley Independent Living Center, a disability justice organization. They provide help and education to persons with disabilities. • She decided not to go for practice but joined Santa Clara Valley medical center, to serve the underprivileged in the community • She has been the medical care provider for last 40 years to most visiting parents and relatives from India to California and for some in other states. She has seen them at home at midnight, or has driven to their homes. Provided prescriptions to hundreds in California and out of state. • She has also treated persons who got sick in the flight, at least a dozen times. • She started as a member of very small Odia community (5th family in 1978), soon became a motherly figure and now grandmother to many children because of her love, caring and affection • She started the community functions in Bay area. All the community events, Ganesh Puja, Saraswati Puja, New Year, Baby showers started in her house in 1978 and continued upto 1990, when her house was too small for the growing community. • She started a High School in her husband's village in Odisha in 1995 and still runs it.



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Dr. Annapurna Devi Pandey

Originally from Cuttack, Odisha, Annapurna Devi Pandey has made Santa Cruz, California, her home since 1989. She teaches Cultural Anthropology at the University of California Santa Cruz. Dr. Pandey holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University and was a post-doctoral fellow in Social Anthropology at Cambridge, UK. Women's issues are her passion and commitment - her current research interests are Indian immigrant women's identity-making, aging, and intergenerational relationships in the Diaspora. She is the author of numerous essays and books on Indian Women's activism, agency, entrepreneurship, and empowerment in India and the Indian diaspora. Dr. Pandey did a senior Fulbright U.S. Scholarship (2017- 2018) working on young migrant women in export textile zones in Indian cities. Her popular writings can be found on the web journal americankahani.com. She is the chair of the Human Rights Commission, International Union of Anthropology and Ethnology Sciences (IUAES).

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Archana Nair

Dr. Archana Nair is a distinguished Internal Medicine Physician, board-certified with over 15 years of experience in providing comprehensive healthcare services to adults. Currently working at Kaiser Permanente in Union City, Dr. Nair's unique contribution extends beyond her exceptional medical expertise. What sets Dr. Nair apart is her unwavering dedication to serving the underserved, including financially disadvantaged individuals, refugees, and migrant populations. Her commitment extends to providing invaluable medical advice and support to elderly visitors from India, who often find themselves in distress due to medical emergencies while in the United States. As an immigrant, Dr. Nair empathizes deeply with the challenges faced by these individuals, ensuring they receive the necessary care and understanding they need during such critical times. Dr. Nair's commitment to healthcare extends beyond her professional duties. She actively engages in a variety of altruistic activities, aiming to create a positive impact within the community. She is a supporter of various charities focused on aiding the financially disadvantaged and those in need, reflecting her holistic approach to healthcare that goes beyond the confines of her medical practice. In nominating Dr. Archana Nair, we recognize not only her outstanding contributions to the field of medicine but also her profound impact on the community through her compassionate service and philanthropic efforts. Her exceptional blend of professional excellence and community service makes her a deserving candidate for Naari 2024 Honorary Nomination.



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Dr. Bharathy Sankara Rajulu

Tamil & Telugu Lecturer @University of California, Berkeley

Recipient of the 2016 Walt Disney Motif Award – Global Humanitarian Honor in memoriam of Theodor Seuss Geisel.

Awarded Certificates for Outstanding contribution to the educational and cultural program of A.I.I.S and in recognition of Excellence in language instruction. We are thrilled to nominate Dr. Bharathy Sankara Rajulu for NAARI celebration of Women organized by CGI and AIA. She was a Walt Disney Motif Award winner. This is to recognize Bharathy Amma "for her career that became a platform of education, empowerment, and engagement to many. In addition to her work with UC Berkeley. Her long-standing support and work with the American Institute of India Studies (AIIS) Tamil Program in Madurai have left long lasting impact. Finally, your ability to connect with the community and engage the issues with service and professional connections are just awesome



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Deepali Vichare

With over two decades in the Marathi Film & Television Industry, Deepali Vichare is a seasoned performer and visionary choreographer. Her career is a tapestry of creativity and versatility, marked by iconic projects like "Partu," "Katyar Kaljat Ghusali," and "Chandramukhi." She's not confined to traditional media, having excelled in web-series like "Compass" and captivating stage shows curated by AARAT in India and the USA. As a Kathak exponent, she shares her passion through teaching, spanning from Mumbai to California.

Deepali's innovation has earned her nominations for Best Choreography from Sakal Premiere, Zee Marathi Gaurav, and Akhil Bhartiya Marathi Maha Mandal. She's also been honored with an award from Filmfare Marathi for her contribution to "Chandramukhi." With each endeavor, Deepali Vichare continues to captivate audiences and redefine the landscape of Marathi entertainment.



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Deepika Singh

Deepika is currently an executive member of the Haryanvi Bay Area association. She is also the Haryanvi cultural performance ambassador of the Haryanvi community. While working as a teacher in dublin she is very active in the community.



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Dipanwita Sengupta

Dipanwita Sengupta, an accomplished dancer, extends her expertise through Kathak classes at the California Nupur Dance Academy. Founded by Smt. Dipanwita Sengupta under the guidance and blessings of her revered Gurus, the legendary Kathak maestro NrityaShiromoni Guru Bandana Sen and Kathak maestro Nrityavilash Guru Suchandra Banerjee, the academy is dedicated to imparting the elegance of Kathak.

Staying true to the rich tradition of Kathak as immortalized by her esteemed gurus, the academy nurtures students who consistently excel in classical and semi-classical competitions across the Bay Area, earning praise and recognition for their performances.



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Geeta George

Geeta George is a highly accomplished Hardware Engineer at Juniper Networks in Silicon Valley. Holds an engineering degree in Electronics and Telecommunication from the College of Engineering Trivandrum. With an illustrious career, she has been recognized for her expertise with several US patents in electronics and computer development. Geeta is not only a professional achiever but also a dedicated community leader. She has served as the President of MANCA (Malayalee Association of Northern California) and currently holds the position of Chairperson of its Trustee board. Serves as the President of Vanitha, a nonprofit Indian American association of women, focusing on charitable efforts including aiding those affected by various calamities. Geeta's commitment to service extends to her role as President of the Fremont Warm Springs Rotary Club. She has also been actively involved with FOKANA (Federation of Kerala Associations in North America) and is recognized as a key figure in promoting charity work and Malayalam literature. Geeta's dedication to her alma mater led her to establish and lead the CET Alumni California chapter. Her outstanding contributions to the community were further acknowledged when she received the prestigious Pravasi Bharathi Kerala "The Women of Excellence Award 2023".



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Geetanjali Dhir

Geetanjali Dhir, a longstanding resident of the Bay Area, has dedicated the past two decades to a myriad of social initiatives. Her extensive involvement spans diverse activities, including organizing food drives, blood donation campaigns, and health initiatives for humanity. Additionally, she actively promotes the International Day of Yoga and empowers women throughout the Bay Area. A pivotal figure within the Friends of Bharat organization, Geetanjali spearheads numerous events aimed at preserving cultural heritage. Her leadership shines through in orchestrating various celebration activities that embody the essence of Bharat's rich culture and traditions.

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Harley Dubois

As one of six original founders and Burning Man's Chief Culture Officer, Harley K. Dubois serves as a moral compass for the nonprofit and a powerful steward of its rich cultural history. With more than 25 years of leadership, project management, art and city planning experience, Harley mentors the organization's senior staff, develops learning tools and processes, and helps guide the growth of Burning Man culture globally. Harley serves on the boards of Illuminate, local San Francisco public radio station KALW, and Nation of Makers, a nonprofit that supports Americans making more and consuming less.

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Harnalli Deepa Swamy

Harnalli Deepa Swamy, Vice President, CTO, CDO - JP Morgan Chase & Co

Deepa is a distinguished executive in data, analytics, AIML, and strategy, delivering exceptional results through strategic leadership in various industries. Formerly, Deepa was the CTO and managing Director for the commercial bank at JPMorgan Chase & Co, where she delivered over \$100M in value. Before JPMC, Deepa held leadership roles at Rodan and Fields, Macys.com, and Wells Fargo.

Currently, At Forge Global (FinTech), Deepa oversees Enterprise Data, AIML, data governance, and Analytics strategy and Engineering platforms that yield tangible business results.

Deepa is also a mentor at JA of Northern California and volunteers in an NGO. In her spare time, she loves to hike and script, direct comedy dramas



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Dr. Harsha Ramchandani

Dr. Harsha Ramchandani is the Chief Medical Officer at Bay Area Community Health. Also, she is a Alameda County Public Health Commissioner. Experienced Chief Medical Officer with a demonstrated history of working in the hospital & health care industry. Skilled in Clinical Research, Medical Education, Medicine, Healthcare Information Technology (HIT), and Electronic Medical Record (EMR). Strong healthcare services professional with a Residency focused in Internal Medicine Residency Program from Sinai Grace Hospital DMC.

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Hima Valleru

Hima Valleru, CEO of Sanjay TaxPro, holds a master's degree in Electrical Engineering and has garnered invaluable experience in the IT sector. With an innate passion for entrepreneurship, she embarked on a journey alongside her husband to establish their tax company. From humble beginnings in a 1-bedroom apartment, juggling parenthood with a newborn and business operations, she has emerged as a mentor, coach, manager, strategist, and dedicated employee to her husband and their flourishing enterprise.

Today, thanks to her relentless dedication and strategic vision, In last 15 years Sanjay TaxPro has expanded its operations, providing employment opportunities to numerous women all over the USA. Specializing in assisting high net worth and business clients with filings and strategic planning, Hima epitomizes the epitome of multitasking, being a mother to four beautiful children while successfully managing a thriving business.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Hima finds joy in culinary pursuits, maintains a keen interest in fitness, and perpetually seeks knowledge as a lifelong learner. She is deeply committed to empowering women around her, inspiring excellence through her actions and leadership. Her mantras "Make things happen, don't wait for things to happen" and "Shoot for the stars, so at least you reach the mountain" encapsulate her proactive approach to life and business, driving her relentless pursuit of success and empowerment for herself and those around her.



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Jyoti Rout



Guru Jyoti Rout is the founder director of Jyoti Kala Mandir, College of Indian Classical Arts. She is actively engaged in spreading awareness and appreciation of this ancient art form on the far side of the globe. She is most appreciated for her abhinaya. She moves between rage, love, fear and amusement with ease, moving you to empathize with each character. Guru Jyoti Rout is a gifted choreographer. She has choreographed over 60 original items in the classical Odissi tradition. She is the recipient of an award from World Arts West for her outstanding choreography at the prestigious Ethnic Dance Festival, San Francisco. She has been honored by several National and International awards from around the globe including Pride of India, Shrishetra Mahari Award from Jagannath Puri, Shrestha Odiani, Life Time Achievement Award from Kharabela. Kalashree Award from OSA, USA. Nirtya Siramani from Olympiad Cuttack Odisha. Odishi Ratna From Bhubaneshwar, Nrutya Sudha from Swarasudha Sangeet Sadhana, Odisha Living Legend Award from Orissadiary.com. Prestigious Mahari Award from Guru Pankaj Charan research foundation, Kendujhar Kala Utsav Samman (her birth place) Prabasi Odishi Nritya Guru Award 2023. Shyamahari Chakra of THE HINDU (News Paper) said “Ambassador of Odissi Dance” Guru Jyoti Rout is an inspired teacher. She has shaped her students into great dancers, several of whom have chosen to move across the country to study with her. She has trained a number of students for their Ranga Puja, many of whom have become successful soloists and Odissi dance teachers today.

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Kasturi Basu

Kasturi Basu is a student centered, Principal at Alum Rock School District with a passion and focus for equitable access, opportunities, and outcomes for all students. Kasturi is currently enrolled in a doctoral program at Santa Clara University on Social Justice Leadership in Education and serves as a planning committee member in the Asian American Pacific Islander Educators Network at SCCOE. She is a recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow Community Service Rotary Award, and awards of recognition from California State Assembly, and Santa Clara County Office of Education for her outstanding contribution in advocating for multilingual learners. She is also a recipient of the KBAY Outstanding Teacher Award. Kasturi has served as panel member/ guest speaker at Dell Corporations, Neythri, Pajero Valley Shelter, Indo American Community Foundation & Art of Living Foundation. She is also an accomplished Indian classical dancer, choreographer, and teacher. Kasturi co-authored Anti Racist Mathematics Education: Stories of Acknowledgement, Action, and Accountability, a recommended read for all educators seeking social and racial justice in mathematics. She is an active supporter and volunteer in community spaces, and serves as a board member for AiducaaeNow, a non-profit organization, with a goal of empowering and educating underprivileged communities in Bay Area and India.



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Kiran Vuriti

Over the past decade, Kiran has served as the President and Owner of multiple Preschools and After School Programs in Dublin and San Ramon.

She is leading a team dedicated to the transformative impact of education under the esteemed Safari Kid franchise.

Her journey has been defined by a commitment to creating nurturing environments and empowering young minds to thrive.

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Kusum Kejriwal

She is the Director of Brahma Kumaris Silicon Valley, Milpitas. Being born in a spiritually inclined business family, she has been practicing Rajyoga meditation since the age of 3. She has achieved Honors in Psychology.

At the age of 21, she surrendered her life in the service of God and to transform the world. She has served worldwide through her talks, seminars, Rajyoga meditation teaching and has addressed several national and international conferences. Sister Kusum came to Silicon Valley 29 years ago. She started Brahma Kumaris Silicon Valley Center which is now serving innumerable individuals and families to lead a meaningful life amidst times of challenges and demands. She is a great spiritual teacher and mentor with a unique ability to provide practical solutions and simple practices.



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Lakshmi Pratury

Lakshmi Pratury is the founder and CEO of INKtalks. She has extensive experience in technology, venture capital, and non-profit organizations, having held leading roles in the US before relocating to India. She holds MBAs from Portland State University and Bajaj Institute, attended IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Mumbai, and was gold medalist in undergraduate mathematics at Osmania University, Hyderabad. Having waded through domains like math, venture capital, and technology. With a background in mathematics and a passion for advocating for women in underrepresented fields, she contributed to Fortune magazine and has been recognized by Forbes as one of the "Women to Watch in Asia."

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Manisha Kand

Entrepreneur specializing in college admission consultation through her firm, SecureCollegeAdmission. Over the past 30 years, she has passionately volunteered for various roles within nonprofit organizations such as Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, GITPRO, and Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies, showcasing her commitment to community service. Presently, she is one of the National Board of Directors at Aum School - a non-profit organization dedicated to establishing an educational institution that integrates Dharmic Values into its curriculum. As one of the directors, she looks after the curriculum development for Aum School.

Manisha Kand has dedicated over two decades to championing societal causes in the Bay Area. She actively engages in various endeavors, including imparting yoga and teaching dharmic values to children. Notably, she spearheads the Om School activities in the USA. Aum Education Society of America, a non-profit organization, addresses the crucial need for integrating Dharmic values into early childhood and elementary education. Committed volunteers within the HinduAmerican community collaborate to offer a curriculum that seamlessly blends these values with mainstream subjects. Our aim is to nurture future leaders who embody these principles, contributing to the betterment of our community, nation, and humanity as a whole.



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Manisha Patel

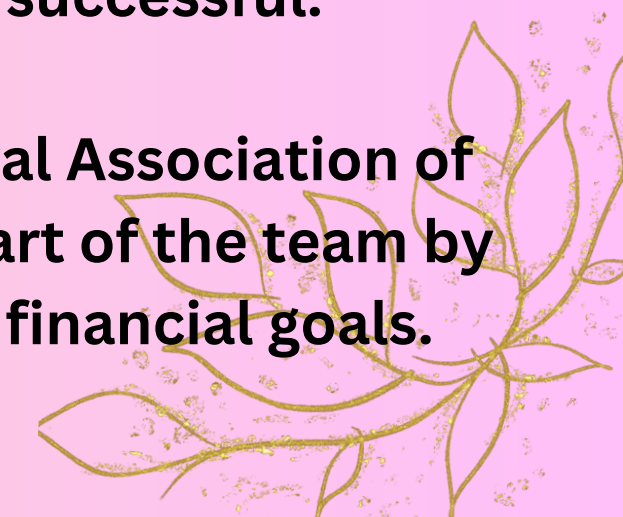
Manisha Patel is a successful businesswoman running Fin-Acc Resources (doing taxes, accounting, bookkeeping, payroll service) in Fremont since 1993. She is a Certified Tax Preparer helping with personal and business filing.

She joined her husband's (Atul) business after moving to Fremont from UK/Kenya. Manisha also has other business interests in different businesses like property investments and hospitality.

She is helping small businesses for their need of bookkeeping, payroll, and taxes throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. This helps small businesses to be successful.

She has served as a Treasurer in Gujarati Cultural Association of Bay Area since 2020, she has been an integral part of the team by supporting and maintaining the organizations financial goals.

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Nandini Mascharak

For the past thirty-nine years, she has been a resident of Santa Cruz, initially arriving to pursue graduate studies in mathematics at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC). Nandini Mascharak has held various roles at UCSC, including staff, lecturer, and currently in a leadership capacity. Her fundamental belief is that education should be accessible to all as a civil right. Throughout her career, she has concentrated on narrowing the performance gap among underrepresented students in her classrooms and collaborated with fellow faculty to devise strategies for promoting equity and inclusion in higher education. In recent years, she has extended her passion for service through involvement with an organization named SilverGenie, operating in India. SilverGenie's primary areas of impact encompass Equitable Care for Seniors, Gender Inclusion, and Environmentally Sustainable Solutions for senior care. The organization has garnered recognition on numerous global platforms, such as the Asia Pacific Care Accelerator, for its contributions to the gender-inclusive Care Economy, and it was invited to showcase its work at the G-20 Ministerial Conference for Women Empowerment in 2023. Her journey with SilverGenie has been empowering, as it aligns with her overarching goal of serving the underserved.



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Nivedita Ganapathi

Nivedita Ganapathi, Co- Founder - My Positivity Matters Nivedita Ganapathi is a personal Transformation coach, motivational speaker, and spiritual seeker. She is eminently qualified with a Masters's degree in law from Harvard University and a Masters's in High Tech law from Santa Clara University. However, she gave up a lucrative law practice to follow her calling to become a motivational speaker and personal coach. As a self-awareness coach, Nivedita has transformed many lives by educating and inspiring people to jumpstart their personal transformation and live purposeful lives. She has cofounded My Positivity Matters- a personal coaching platform, along with Ragini Mishra, to help even more people in their personal transformation journey. Nivedita has conducted many mindfulness practices at major universities like Stanford, University of California Santa Cruz and facilitated conscious leadership programs at corporates like Oracle, Linked In, Kaiser Permanente and many other organizations.



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Preeti Gupta



Preeti Gupta is an accomplished professional with a distinguished background in engineering, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. With a distinguished career spanning over two decades in the dynamic field of semiconductors, Preeti commenced her journey as a research and development engineer, focusing on electronic design automation and semiconductor power efficiency. She embraced diverse roles and challenges throughout her professional journey including product engineering, applications engineering, technical marketing, and product management – in startups and in large multinational organizations, supported by brilliant mentors and colleagues. Preeti currently heads the product management of semiconductor products at Ansys, where she has a pivotal role in product positioning, shaping the product roadmap, and defining go-to-market strategies for industry-leading simulation solutions that address complex multiphysics engineering challenges. Acknowledged as a subject matter expert and an articulate industry spokesperson, Preeti's contributions include papers published in leading conferences, patents in semiconductor domain, and participation in editorial panels. She is actively engaged in initiatives promoting women in technology, contributing to grassroots efforts that foster diversity and inclusivity. Preeti has deep gratitude for her roots in India and for a stellar education at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, where she earned her postgraduate Master of Technology degree in Integrated Electronics and Circuits.

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Prema Thekkek

Prema Thekkek, a nursing leader, businesswoman, and philanthropist, blazed trails as one of the first Malayali nurses in California. Now retired after 40 years of dedicated service in US, she channels her energy into philanthropy and charity work. A beacon of leadership, she facilitated the migration and establishment of countless individuals in the California community, nurturing their business and professional endeavors. With unwavering grit and determination, she shattered glass ceilings, showcasing her entrepreneurial spirit and resilience as a woman in business. Her remarkable ability to maintain composure in the face of adversity, while tirelessly advocating for those in need, sets her apart. On this Women's Day, she embodies the essence of womanhood and inspires others to follow in her footsteps.



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Priya Ponnappalli

Priya Ponnappalli holds a leadership role at Google, where she is responsible for building AI/ML infrastructure and services to accelerate research and translate breakthroughs into products; this includes Responsible AI infrastructure for Large Models/Generative AI, from AI governance to safety methods.

Prior to Google, Priya led the Amazon Machine Learning Solutions Lab (MLSL) whose mission is to work with companies and organizations from all industries to solve their business needs using AWS's cloud-based AI and ML services.

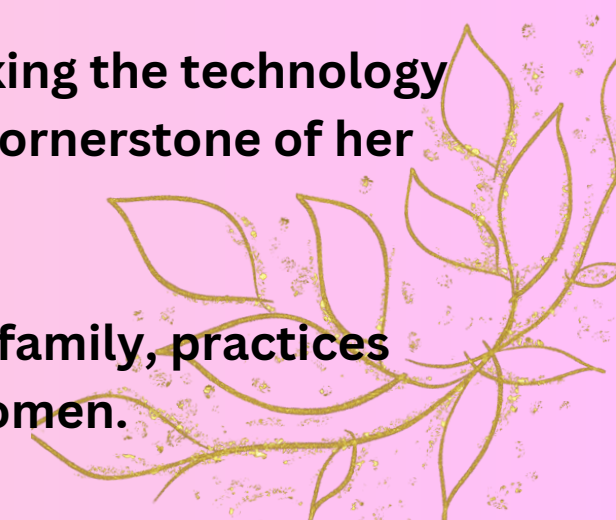
In 2021, Business Insider named Priya to its list of 100 people transforming business, recognizing her work in leading businesses into the machine learning landscape.

Priya hails from Hyderabad and holds a PHD degree in electrical and computer engineering at the University of Texas at Austin.

Priya is passionate about making ML accessible to all and making the technology industry more diverse -- creating inclusive workspaces is a cornerstone of her leadership style.

She devotes her free time between spending time with her family, practices Kuchipudi dance and enjoys mentoring other women.

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Raji Menon

Meet Raji Menon, a compassionate leader /teacher/writer/speaker/social worker who is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of underprivileged. Born in the idyllic village of Kuttanad, Alleppy, Kerala, India, Raji has spent the last 26 years in the Bay Area, where she resides with her husband, two grown children, and two beloved dogs. Currently, Raji serves as a Math Teacher at Mountain House School, beyond her role in academia, she wears many hats: coach of the Speech and Debate Club, advisor of the Passion for Purpose Club, and supporter of the Youth Financial Society. Raji's dedication to community engagement led her to join MANCA (Malayali Association of Northern California) as a radio host in 2012-2017. Over time, Raji Menon's involvement with MANCA evolved as she ascended to various leadership positions, including serving as a board member, Vice President, and charity director. Alongside the esteemed MANCA team, she orchestrated impactful events and hosted shows that delved into crucial topics such as parenting, youth development, and pressing social causes.

Driven by an unwavering passion for humanity, Raji Menon founded Punyam in 2016, a US-based non-profit organization dedicated to empowering women and children. Punyam serves as a platform for Kerala women to unite for a noble cause in the United States, fostering a community-driven approach to address the needs of the underprivileged. With a mission to empower with empathy and passion for purpose, Punyam team has successfully executed around 300 projects to date.

Raji's commitment to community service extends beyond Punyam. She is also the founder of Gurukulam Academy focused on transforming youth to self organized growth mindset champions. She is a founding member of Sargavedi, an organization dedicated to promoting Malayalam literature and arts. A versatile communicator, Raji shares her experiences and stories through her blog, YouTube channel, and her biographical story book published in January 2023. Not content with local impact alone, she initiated the Kerala Government Malayalam Mission California chapter, fostering unity and cultural exchange within the Bay Area's Kerala community.



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Ranjani Avijit



Ms. Ranjani Avijit is the director of Aerodance Academy. She has a double master's degree in Child Psychology along with a Classical dance background primarily in Kuchipudi from Andhra Pradesh. She established her dance academy in 1999@ Fremont California. Using Indian dance as

a directional tool, Aerodance promotes knowledge of life help skills to children from Prek - High

school through conceptual, purposeful and functional Indian dance forms like Folk, Fusion, Devotional, Patriotic, Bollywood, Modern and Tollywood.

Ms, Ranjani has been a judge in various bay area events including Bollywood Berkeley, Boogie Woogie, Osaat, Youth Sava, FIA etc. Ms. Ranjani s students have showcased in over 1000 Nonprofit venues raising thousands of dollars for charity events in addition to being forerunners

in all local, regional and national dance competitions. Her training yields successful high school

and college dance team leaders in USA. Ms. Avijit hosts an annual dance show called Aerovaganza every year in December which is a formal dance graduation program - one of a kind in the Bay area.

Encompassing her experiences as a teacher, judge, and as a business woman she empowered herself to be a pioneer in promoting, Indian Semi Classical dance as an art form of education. Her training yield s in making dance graduates who are attested with an international certificate

issued by CID UNESCO. This year marks her 25 th year of business in the Bay area.

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Rathi Murthy

Rathi Murthy is CTO and President, Expedia Product & Technology, overseeing the company's product, platform and AI strategy. In this role, she focuses on innovating equitable products and delivering quality experiences that meet the evolving expectations of travelers, B2B partners, and developers. Rathi was named Innovative Leader of the Year by Fast Company in 2023. Rathi has held senior technology leadership roles at some of the world's leading tech companies.

She most recently served as CTO for Verizon Media. Recognized as a transformative technology executive, Rathi oversaw Verizon Media's global technology strategy, leading the company's continued innovations in 5G while also managing the platform technology and infrastructure. Previously, Rathi was CTO at Gap, Inc., where she developed an end-to-end technology strategy for its broad portfolio of brands. Prior to Gap, Rathi was CIO for Enterprise Growth at American Express, where she managed end-to-end platform technology, infrastructure, and operations for its suite of prepaid products; and has held leadership positions at eBay Inc., Yahoo, Sun Microsystems, and WebMD. Rathi has extensive technology and engineering experience and has spent most of her career building platforms and products for emerging technologies. Her expertise lies in her ability to manage engineering teams and drive change. Rathi currently sits on the board of directors for PagerDuty, and she is also an Art of Living Teacher with a passion to help spread peace in the community.



NAARI 2024



Consulate General of India
San Francisco



Regina Espino Sonio

Introducing Regina Espino Sonio, the embodiment of elegance and professionalism at our Indian Consulate for 23 remarkable years.

Hailing from the Philippines, yet embodying the essence of Indian grace and charm.

Always exquisitely dressed and mannered, she exudes sophistication in every interaction.

With a smile that brightens our days, she embraces Indian cuisine and culture with genuine enthusiasm, even delivering a heartfelt farewell speech in Hindi.

A devoted mother of two daughters and a son, and grandmother of two adorable grandchildren.

let us honor her for her unwavering dedication and hard work and her service to Indian consulate



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Samidha Satyam



Guru Samidha Satyam, the esteemed founder of Sanskaar School of Dance in the Bay Area, is a distinguished disciple of the renowned Kuchipudi maestro, Guru Padmabhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam. With a global presence, she has graced stages worldwide, earning accolades such as the Guinness World Record and numerous prestigious awards.

Dedicated to preserving and propagating Indian heritage and culture, Guru Samidha employs a personalized teaching approach at her school. Her method fosters not only skill but also poise, grace, confidence, and a deep appreciation for the art form among her students. Renowned for her collaborative spirit, she has partnered with accomplished artists from around the world in her quest to enrich the global dance community.

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Dr. Sindhu Joseph

Dr. Sindhu Joseph, a visionary entrepreneur and leader in artificial intelligence and customer engagement, holds a Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence from the Research Institute (IIA-CSIC), Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona (UAB). As the founder and CEO of CogniCor Technologies, she leads the development of AI-driven solutions transforming customer interactions. With a background in engineering from IIT Madras and IISc Bangalore, Sindhu has leveraged her expertise gained from roles at IBM Research and Philips Research. Recognized as a thought leader, she has earned accolades including Forbes' "30 Under 30" in Enterprise Technology. Passionate about technology's potential, Sindhu continues to drive CogniCor's success, shaping the future of customer engagement and business innovation.



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Suma Mathew



With a robust career spanning over three decades, Suma Mathew, is the co-founder and CEO of Aveta.ai, a pioneering healthcare technology enterprise at the forefront of leveraging Artificial Intelligence to transform healthcare provider practices. Her journey before Aveta.ai was marked by significant leadership roles, notably as the Chief Technology Officer of Envestnet Retirement Solutions (NYSE:ENV). There, she played a pivotal role in steering the company through rapid growth phases and technology and operational challenges, working closely with both the executive team and board members to outline and execute strategic initiatives that significantly boosted productivity and profitability. Prior to that she spent 12 years at IBM in the Advanced Database Support team.

She is an alumni of Stanford Graduate Business School and has an impressive academic track record including completion of the Stanford Executive Program, and participation in Wharton Executive Education for CIOs, and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the College of Engineering, Trivandrum. Suma serves on the boards of Paanini Foundation, Founding Minds Inc, Aveta.ai and Nestimate Inc.

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Vasudha Patel

Vasudha Patel is an accomplished professional with diverse expertise, holding a Bachelor's in Accounting, Licensed Optician, and Associates in Early Childhood Education with Special Needs Certification.

As both an Entrepreneur and committed Program Director, she has been instrumental in successfully steering a preschool and afterschool program since 2013. Her role involves shaping enriching educational experiences for children and cultivating a genuine love for learning within the community.

Moreover, she is genuinely passionate about serving as the Vice President of the Gujarati Cultural Association of Bay Area. Progressing from a secretary role, she actively contributes to the organization's cultural awareness initiatives and plays a key role in fostering its overall growth.



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Vinita Prasad Kumar

Born in Purnea, Bihar, Vinita came to the United States to attend graduate school. She holds a Master of Science in physical organic chemistry from Southern Illinois University. She has also earned Master of Science degree in organic chemistry and an undergraduate degree from Patna University. Vinita has worked in the biotech & pharmaceutical industries for over 33 years. Currently she is the Senior Vice President of Quality at Mirum Pharmaceuticals. Prior to working at Mirum Pharmaceuticals, Vinita served in leadership roles at Corcept Therapeutics (2018-2021), Versartis Inc. (2016-2018), and Relypsa Inc. (2007-2016). Vinita has worked on multiple drugs that are now FDA approved. To name a few, Aleve OTC Analgesics – Naproxen sodium, Cellcept (immunosuppressant, used to prevent rejection in people who have received kidney, heart or liver transplant), Korlym (Cushing's disease) and Livmarli (Allagile Syndrome).

Besides Chemistry, Vinita is extremely passionate about the art form of Dance (Kathak and Bollywood styles), and Sitar. She was one of the founders of Bihar Samaj, an organization that helped foster the community feel at home away from home. In her spare time, Vinita teaches sitar, kathak and Bollywood dances. She is the artistic founder and director of the dance group Aavartan which has grown to fame in the Bay Area over the past decades.

Vinita deeply believes in giving-back. She is also a founding member of Gulabi organization. This group raises funds for small non-profit organizations such as Helen's Angel (Support for Cancer patients), Variety Club (Camp For disabled children).

Vinita has been recommended for this recognition by Bihar Foundation, a Non-Profit organization working to help the poorest of poor people in India through their various projects. "Adopt A Village" under the Project-Vision Bihar.

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Geetha Ramakrishnan

As the first woman chairperson of the San Francisco Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, CA Geetha Ramakrishnan contributions played a key role in expanding our USA presence and promoting gender diversity across ICAI USA chapters. All of our 11 USA-based chapters, including the forthcoming one in Florida proudly have women leaders in their management committees.

Geetha was a Senior Management Professional with 25+ years of International experience in the Finance & Accounting Industry. Member of Corporate Boards. Offshoring Expert. Successfully set up & led large shared service operations. Served in Controller roles at large US corporations. Several years of Consulting experience at a Big 4 Accounting firm. She is a founding member of ICAI San Francisco Chapter and served as its Chairperson during 2019-2022.



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