

GSA

# GLOBAL EYE

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Issue 23, July 2023



## SPECTACULAR DR. VGP'S 12TH CONGRESSIONAL GLOBAL COMMUNITY OSCARS 2023

*Hosted By*  
**AMERICAN MULTI ETHNIC COALITION USA**





# FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

The 12th Annual AMEC Congressional Global Community Oscars held on June 17, 2023 at Yellow Box, Naperville was a Spectacular success with a record attendance of over 1,500 persons including 5 U.S. Congressmen with spellbound magical Special effects, cutting – edge dance and theater productions, distinguished presenters and noteworthy awardees.

The Community Oscars banquet was exquisite from the centerpieces to table décor with a black and gold theme done by the designer couple **Sandeep George** and **Annette Kolcun** to perfection. The Banquet Co-Chairs **Jerome Athishtham** and **Katherine Thorat's** flawless leadership oversaw the 500 guests who attended Red Carpet Banquet dinner prior to the Awards Ceremonies.

Nepalese American Leader **Bala Ghimere's** Chicago Curry House was again selected as the Official caterers for the 12th Annual AMEC Congressional Global Community Oscars, Whose food delicacies served at the Oscars Banquet is still the talk of the town.

AMEC instituted the President **Toni Preckwinkle** student Award of Excellence to the Global Community Oscars as a new Category. Cook County Board President **Toni Preckwinkle** did the honors in presenting the Community Oscars to the inaugural awardee. Yoga & Meditation Guru, **Ma Anu Malhotra** officiated as the emcee for the Banquet Award ceremonies with aplomb. USA India Chamber of Commerce President **Dr. Ajit Pant** introduced the Awardee, **Nisha Pantee**.

**Ambassador Twin Green** opened the Ceremonies in a stunning Cream White & Gold sequined gown with her hair set to curls and flowing looking like a mermaid who held the audience's rapt attention. **Vincent Gray** anchored the mesmerizing "Around the World in 60 minutes" a non stop medley of ethnic dances, music & song in his own inimitable style.

**Shivam Viswanathan** who was in the **A.V.Pitt** did an awesome job with his team with background score of the LED screens on Stage which enhanced the whole Global Community Oscars to a totally different level – a new high !!**Naveen Karna**, AMEC's Executive Director along with his team including **Manne Lingaiah** excelled in designing and producing the Awardees profile powerpoint.

**Anil Pulla**, Global Eye's C.O.O. and C.E.O. of Design Qubes Hyderabad lent excellent back office support and the digital effects for the entire Global Community Oscars from planning to implementation in a most professional manner.

**Neelam Saboo Jai Ganesh**, the Oprah Winfrey of Naperville anchoring the Global Community Oscars for the Global Eye Digital T.V. electrified the Red Carpet interviews and enlightened us by getting impromptu quotes from our galaxy of Awardees and presenters.

**Anchor Vincent Gray** was ably assisted by the two dynamic emcees **Shree Gurusamy & Seeta Bala** who managed the awards ceremony to ensure an interesting flow with nearly 38 awardees and presenters.

The Volunteer brigade led by AMEC Governor **Dr Zenobia Sowell** & MEATF Chair **Martino Tangkar** included GSA Mrs Global Eye 2022 **Mohita Murali**, GSA CEO **Chenna Kesavulu**, Reception Chair **Pinaki Basu**, Gala Co-Chair **Alli Dhanaraj**, Global Eye Youth Correspondent **Megha Bala**, AMEC Commissioner **Girish Kapur**, Naperville Singer **Swapnil Sahu**, and AMEC Leadership Team of **Sam Ma**, **Ajay Shah**, **Dr Vasavi Chakka**, **Neil Khot**, **Amar Upadhayay**, **Rohit Joshi**, **HemaSastri**, **Sudhir & Archana Agarwal**, **Allen George**, **Robert York**, **Vibha Rajput**, **Guruji Anu Malhotra**, **Bharat Malhotra**, **Christiana Gray**, **Vijay Muralidharan**,



**Subash George, Dr Mercedes Martinez, Dr. KirosTewolde, Dr. Gladys Folorunsho, Nagedra & Ravi Sri Pada, Vinita Gulabani & Dr Abha Agarwal** among others, simply did an outstanding job in each of their delegated responsibility. Two months of hard work, planning & coordination with effective implementation made this 12th Annual AMEC's Congressional Global Community Oscars a huge, resounding success.

I must mention the invaluable support given to us by **Shan Vaidyalingam** from Los Angeles, **Dr S. Hyderi** from Chennai, India and **Taha Siamwala** from San Diego on day of the Community Oscars and the previous day too. Mucho Gracias Amigos!

**Vijay Muralidharan** and **Subash George's** performance of the Oscar Award winning lyric NAATU NAATU was the showstopper of the evening. The well-choreographed and superbly performed by both of them **Vijay Muralidharan** and **Subash George**, drew repeated applause from the audience.

An Evening in Paris – a fashion show presented by **Ghazala Khan** of RaazBoutique was another highlight of the evening with 15 models crisscrossing the auditorium in ethnic formal wear cat walk set to perfect beats of music and the magical backdrop of LED Screen was a sight indeed to behold!

**Mohita Murali**, our Chicago News Bureau Chief has a detailed report on the entertainment section of the Oscars, while **Megha Bala**, our Youth Correspondent in her article on the Global Community Oscars highlights the presenters and Awardees.

The Grand Finale was an Ode to a Galaxy of popular Singers including **Bianca Newton, Ejires Dollars, Robert York, SanikaSahu, Ajay Shah, Swapnil Sahu, Manmeet Kaur, Ravi Shankar** and **Nitya Nair**.

The Backstage was efficiently managed by **Swapnil Sahu** & his team.

A Big Thank you to our grand Sponsors **Wells Real Estate Investment**, Florida, **Windfall Group, Aurora and Medstar Laboratory**, Hillside for their excellent partnership and support.

Naperville **Mayor Scott Wehrli** and **First Lady Lynda Wehrli** were the Gala Czars this year and the City of Naperville issued a special proclamation welcoming AMEC's 12th Annual Congressional Global Community Oscars to Naperville. This is the third year that AMEC's Oscars are held at Yellow Box, Naperville.

The presence of 5 U.S. Congressmen **Danny K. Davis, Raja Krishnamoorthy, Bill Foster, Jonathan Jackson** and **Michigan's Congressman Shri Thanedar** was truly historic. It is very rarely, that one sees 5 Congressman in any Community event.

**Allen George**, our Media Chair did a terrific job by hosting two Press Conferences before the event, which had ABC 7 TV among others cover the AMEC Oscars.

An evening of this magnitude, would not have been possible without our Almighty God's blessings and the leadership of our AMEC Governor **Dr. Zenobia Sowell** along with MEATF Chair **Martino Tangkar**.

Yes, with all your support we will continue to work towards empowering our ethnic Communities across the World.

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# 'We used to have chai pe charcha 30 years ago'

'I told President Obama, "Mr President, do you realise that the person who is likely to become the prime minister of India in two weeks, does not have a visa, and you are talking about having great relations between India and the USA, how are you going to do it?". His answer was that this is not right and that he'll have somebody from the White House and the State Department reach out to me.'



**ABHIJIT MASIH**

**rediff.com U.S Contributor**

The doors of his home in Chicago have been open to Bharatiya Janata Party since the early 1990s.

The physician couple, Dr Panna and Dr Bharat Barai, in the past have hosted L K Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Sikander Bakht and Narendra D Modi.

During his State visit to the United States last month, while speaking to United States Congressmen Ro Khanna and Shri Thanedar, Prime Minister Modi told them about his stay at Dr Barai's house in Chicago in 1993. Bursting in laughter half way through the story, the prime minister pointed to Dr Barai standing in a corner of the room, asking him to complete the story about his visit as a mere karyakarta.

Dr Barai, who is instrumental in organising Indian American community and multiple diaspora events in the United States each time Modi visits the US, speaks about his long association with the karyakarta who is now the prime minister of India to Rediff.com US Contributor Abhijit Masih.

Gifted with an impressive memory, he recalls the many incidents that have endeared him to the Indian leader and what keeps their relationship intact.

**Since when do you know Prime Minister Modi and how did this friendship begin?**

Thirty years ago in 1993, when it was Swami Vivekananda's anniversary speech to the parliaments of religion, he came as a BJP karyakarta.

They didn't have any resources, so he stayed with us for almost 10 days. I took him around. So we know each other since then.

**Do you recall anything about him from the visit in 1993?**

In fact, when he was sitting down with Congressmen in the side room at the Ronald Reagan Center (on June 23, 2023), during the State visit, he himself told them he had nothing and was describing his

own career as a karyakarta.

He pointed out to me standing in the corner of the room, and told them he stayed at my house.

He also narrated to them a cute story about that visit.

That he had come with only a 22 inch bag when he came to Chicago.

We were kind of shocked that all he has is a 22 inch suitcase.

Then he had told my wife in Gujarati, "Panna ben, I know that you do the laundry every weekend, but I have only two pairs of clothes. So can you do my laundry every day?"

That's how simple he was. Every morning we used to sit down and we used to have chai pe charcha 30 years ago.

**What was the impression you had of the simple karyakarta and did you imagine then that he would one day become the prime minister of India?**

What did impress me at that time; he would discuss a lot of things about India and about all the problems of India.

But then he used to always say, we can do like this, we can do like that. So that reminded me of the famous

own career as a karyakarta.

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saying, I know of the 99 problems, but I'm looking for that one solution.

That was what impressed me. He was very crisp in his thoughts.

Obviously, I never thought that he'll become prime minister of India someday.

**How have you stayed connected through the years?**

I used to meet him when he was chief minister of Gujarat. There was a lot of propaganda against him about the Gujarat riots. And we used to clarify what happened.

We used to keep him in touch with the diaspora.

In 2005, he was supposed to come here; there was a meeting that was planned with the diaspora in New York.

I was 1/10th sponsor at the time. Then suddenly, we got the news that his visa was denied.

So we asked him, can you do a live telecast from India? So everybody came and he addressed it live.

Then whenever I visited India, I'll stop by and make a courtesy call on him.

**You raised the visa issue with the US State Department. What explanation did you present to them?**

That this was very unfair. Riots have occurred in every part of India. There is nothing that he could have done and the provocation was so grave, burning alive 59 people, there are bound to be

reactions.

I would say neither act was justified.

To say that the chief minister is responsible, in that way in 1993 in Maharashtra, 2,000 people were killed. But that was a Congress chief minister. Nobody asked him to resign.

In the elections that followed, the BJP got elected with a lot more seats.

**How did you help in the US granting Mr Modi a US visa?**

I got an opportunity to talk with President Obama. He knew me since he is from the Chicago area.

He gave me a few minutes where I sat down with him in April 2014, just two weeks before general elections in India.

I explained to him the strategic significance.

I said, "Mr President, do you realise that the person who is likely to become the prime minister of India in two weeks, does not have a visa, and you are talking about having great relations between India and the USA, how are you going to do it?"

His answer was that this is not right and that he'll have somebody from the White House and the State Department reach out to me.

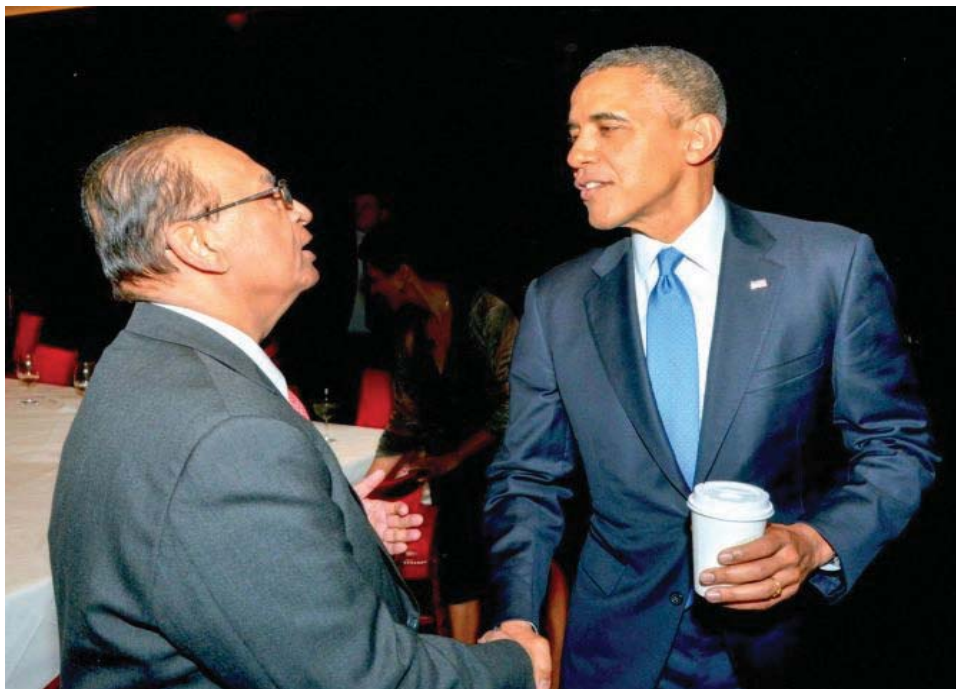
They arranged a meeting on May 11, 2014. I met that person and explained to him. That person is no longer at the State Department and was later appointed ambassador to India. I met the same person at the White House last Thursday (June 22, 2023). He remarked "Dr Barai, what we did that day in 2014, made this day possible."

**You've known Mr Modi for so long. You've met him as a simple karyakarta and as the prime minister of India. How would you describe him as a person?**

He was always a clean man. One thing I do is never get involved in any business talk. Because I know it will cut off my relationship nor am I interested. I'm a doctor. I have no business interest. That has helped us quite a bit.

One good point is we have no conflict of interest. We don't do any business with government.

We don't ask any favours from the Indian government.





**READ THE REACTIONS & RESPONSE TO OUR 22nd EDITION.....**

Introducing a tapestry of voices echoing from every corner, we unveil the resounding chatter of our readers across India, Naperville, and the UK. The Global Eye's 22nd Issue has garnered immense enthusiasm, capturing minds far and wide. The power of connection lies within these pages, awaiting your arrival.

Enriching information is provided in the magazine.

I read the fortnightly magazine Global Eye online. Very diversified information is made available in this magazine. Thanks for bringing it to us.

**Shukla  
New Delhi**

Delighted to receive the latest issue. Wasting no time, read the entire magazine very quickly. New and specific informative information is explained in a simple and effective manner.

**Ravi Teja  
Navi Mumbai**

Recently I got to read Global Eye magazine. In this, I got information about the latest changes happening in our community. I wish that this magazine should continue to progress like this and reach every citizen.

**Nanda Kishore  
Vizag**

Excellent & Comprehensive Magazine.

**Dr Preethi  
Hyderabad**

Very nice articles with lots of information

**A Lodge  
Kochi**

The Global Eye shares thought-provoking articles. Lovely to read.

**Ajay Parcha  
Bandra**

The Global Eye gives us news, articles that are not found in any other media. Excellent Reading. I look forward to

each issue and am always surprised by the amazing content and different writing styles.

**Amruta Karwa  
Nasik**

Dear Editor, I think the quality of the Issue -22 is very less compared to previous issues. Cover Story is absurd, not related to the cover at all.. Thought it cover the positive and negative sides of IPL. Very impressive Face to face. The present generation should read the face to face interview. You Break it and You fix it... Excellent work by the young man.

**Anjan  
Manchester**

Hello Sir, I am Neela from JNU. I met Shantishree madam couple of time. She is such a nice human being. I wish to see her in a great position like the present President Murmu ji.

**Anupama Reddy  
Nellore**

Editor, I want to participate in the events of globaleye. How can i join and participate.

**Babita Gupta**

The pictures of the events and advertisements and all other are very colorful. Good work. God Bless.

**Kaushik  
Bangalore**

We Salute to the Editor in Chief for giving us such an informative Digital News weekly for free. We imagine how much effort would be required to get this wonderful news.

**Manjusha  
Kolkota**

Looking forward for your Magazine. I have missed few issues but able to download it from website. Kudos to the team for their relentless effort.

**Mamata  
Vizag**

We miss Mr Cool Dhoni. So proud to be Indian and fan of Indian Cricket.

**Prameela  
Ibrahimpatnam**

Amazing colourful issue. Thank you Global eye for sending the new edition.

**Rajendra  
Chennai**

Sir, This magazine is very helpful to know the activities and communities. I am very thankful to all the people who work behind this.

**Garima  
Palakad**

I wish to congratulate the team of GSA Global Eye Magazine for the hard work behind coming up with every issue.

**Subba Raju  
Hyderabad**

Accept my appreciation for such an effort to provide information to common people.. The design of the magazine is very good and it is very reader friendly.

**Giridhar  
Rajampet**

Namaste, Many thanks for your great services. I like your news coverage and key collections of relevant news.

**Aruna  
Downtown, Naperville**

Editing of the magazine is very good. It provides all information in proper way. Overall this magazine will be extensively circulated. I wish for its success.

**Brian E Stupay  
Naperville, IL**

Sir, I have read the current issue and found that it is a mirror of the initiative taken by your organizations for the development of community. My best wishes for every step in this regard.

**Sandhya**

Dear Sir/Madam, I am a regular reader of this magazine. since its inception. The Magazine is filled up with news, thoughts and information about

social life reflecting a milieu of hope & progress despite an air of despair caused by some fear mongers.

**Teja Yadlapalli  
Nizambad,India**

Respected Sir, At first, I congratulate all of you for publishing GSA Global Eye magazine. I read online edition of May - June and I was amazed to read the informative content. Thank you for sending the magazine online by email. I would like to know if there is any printed version of the magazine.

**Esther  
New Delhi**

Sir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's news in this magazine enthralled us. Covered all the government plans and action meetings. Now PM Narendra Modi is in the foot step of late Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Thank you for bringing to us.

**Swapna Anumolu  
Lakewood Valley, Naperville**

Dear Vijay Sir, A warm welcome and thanks to you for not only publishing a news magazine but also proving very informative content in it. I have a suggestion to add some content on topics like how to send your child in right direction.

**Deepthi Chinni**

Let me congratulate the editorial team of this GSA Global Eye Magazine. I happened to see issues from 20th and excellent articles, sustainable development and india's commitment are very informative. I wish the magazine a great success.

**Jagadhatri Varanasi**

Congratulations for publishing such a useful magazine

**Tushara  
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**"From Paralyzed to Prophet:  
Asia's Largest Church Built by a Miracle Worker"**



In this captivating episode of Dr. VGP Talk Show, witness the incredible transformation of a once-paralyzed teenager on the brink of suicide into an apostle, prophet, and messiah. Join us as we delve into the remarkable story of how God's power turned his life around, leading him to construct Asia's largest church in Warangal, Telangana District, India. Prepare to be amazed as this extraordinary individual reaches out to heal thousands, making the blind see and the dead come back to life through unwavering faith, fasting, and prayer. Discover the living reality of Christianity in India and witness firsthand the magnificent Christian Jyoti Prayer Hall and Society for Christ, located in Karnakuram. Don't miss the opportunity to meet the inspiring Prophet Apostle Dr. Paulson Raj Sangala and his remarkable team. Immerse yourself in the awe-inspiring acts of this man of God. Watch the Dr VGPTALK SHOW today to be enlightened, empowered and encouraged. Subscribe Now and view another enlightening episode with PROPHET Rev Dr Paulson Raj Sangla of Warangal, Telangana State, India.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBxh5mapwYo>

**DR. VGP TALK SHOW**

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**AN INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY OSCARS WITH OVER 1,500 PEOPLE PRESENT WITH 5 U.S. CONGRESSMEN IN ATTENDANCE**



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**Megha Lisa Bala  
GSA Global Eye Youth Correspondent**

The 12th Annual Congressional Global Community Oscars Awards Gala took place on June 17, 2023, at the Yellow Box in Naperville, IL. Attendees were dressed in their finest tuxedos and most elegant gowns to invoke the evening in true Oscar's fashion. Dr. Vijay Prabhakar instituted the President Toni Preckwinkle Student of Excellence Award, which was awarded to Nisha Panthee at the banquet, along with remarks from President Toni Preckwinkle herself at the featured banquet.

The main program commenced with an Around the World in 60 minutes segment that featured a world class musical ensemble by Femi Ogebule and the Royal Voices which set high standards for the rest of the performances. The Around the World in 60 Minutes segment featured dances from Russia, China, Africa, Indonesia, Mexico, and India, solo by Bianca Newton and spoken word by Christianna Gray. The entertainment was extremely memorable, especially the African dance which featured a performer in stilts doing tricks such as lifting his leg and putting it behind him. Bianca Newton touched the audience's hearts with her melodious voice in her solo.

The awards ceremony was well deserved victory for several different community heroes, such as Commissioner Donna Miller as Woman of the Year presented by Samarth Patel, State Rep. LaShawn Ford as Man of the Year presented by Mohita Sukumar and Madhu Uppal, Dr. Suresh Reddy for the Civic Leadership Award presented by Dr. Rania Agha, Congressman Shri Thanedar as Rising Star of the Year presented by Dr. Kiros Tewolde Gabriel, Cathleen Cauquiran as Journalist of the Year presented by Neil Khot, Dr. Prakasam Tata for the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by



Commissioner Mildred Harris, Aarav Karna as Child Prodigy of the Year presented by Christianna Gray, Vishal Ghimire as Outstanding Student of the Year presented by Alderman Nicole Lee, Akshita Boddapu as Youth of the Year presented by Superintendent Leonard B. Dixon, Tommie Banks III as Brand Photographer of the Year presented by Neelam Dwivedi, Brij Sharma as Corporate of the Year presented by the AMEC Team, Israel Rocha Jr. as Healthcare Administrator of the Year presented by Kevin Olickal, Reverend Paulson Raj Sangala for the Danny K. Davis Peace Prize presented by the AMEC Team, Gary Chen for the Community Leadership Award presented by Dr. Tapas Das Gupta and Consul General Zhao Jian, Roopashi Khatri as Young Woman of the Year presented by Alderman Pat Dowell, Bob & Ann Bettinardi as Couple of the Year presented by Al & Kathy Salvi, Rajiv Khandala as Outstanding Physician of the Year presented by Congressman Bill Foster, Janalie Bingham as Entrepreneur of the Year presented by Anu Malhotra, Poonam Datta as Humanitarian of the Year presented by Dr. Lonnie J. Edwards, Linda Bi for the Business Leadership Award presented by the AMEC Team, Humboldt Park Health for the Golden Eagle Award presented by the AMEC Team, Shashi Tandon as Senior Citizen of the Year presented by Nancy Chen, Jan Zheng for

the Lincoln Service of Excellence Award presented by Mustafa Ajmeri, Darshan Thomas as Rising Young Sports Star of the Year presented by Amal McCaskill, The Bhatt Foundation for the President John F. Kennedy Award presented by Dr. Twin Green, Shaunta Gray as Community Activist of the Year presented by Kathy

Khan's Raaz Couture livened up the stage as they modeled ethnic wear, catwalking the auditorium to upbeat electronic music. It was an excellent intermission exactly halfway between the presentation of all the awards. Another notable mention was the Oscar winning favorite Naatu Naatu performance AMEC commissioners Vijay Muralidharan and Subash George made the audience want to jump onstage and dance to the familiar foot tapping beat. A standout of the performance was the duo who maintained the same consistent energy throughout their performance.

After the awards, there were a series of felicitations for Mayor Scott Wehrli of Naperville, Congressman Bill Foster, Congressman Jonathan Jackson, and Congressman Danny K. Davis. The grand finale was again brought to us by the lovely



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Thorat, Katelyn Chen as Innovator of the Year presented by Dr. S. Hyderi, Ejire Dollars as Entertainer of the Year presented by Sunil Shah, Sheriff Jim Mendrick for the Distinguished Leadership Award presented by Dr. Vasavi Chakka, Nitya Nair for the Mir Ali Ethnic Singer of the Year Award presented by Archana and Sudhir Agarwal, Eric Parker as the Interfaith Business Leader of the Year presented by Vinita Gulabani, Dr. Afroz Hafeez as Volunteer of the Year presented by Supreme Sheikh Kenu Bey, Dione Harden for the Lady of Love Lily Prabhakar Changemaker Award presented by Gloria Holland, Science of Spirituality as Organization of the Year presented by Dr. Sriram & Dr. Sarada Sonty, and Angel Chen as Outstanding Child of the Year presented by Aryan Khot.

The fashion show titled, "An Evening in Paris" presented by Ghazala

melody of Bianca Newton's voice with her take on "I Wanna Dance with Somebody" by Whitney Houston, as well as rapping by Robert York and more vocal performances by Ejire Dollars, Nitya Nair and more.

The emcee team did an excellent job smoothly and efficiently transitioning us through the evening with their commentary. The backstage team was extremely efficient in making sure operations were smooth and award presentations were timely. Overall, the success of this event has given us a lot to look forward to for the 13th Annual Congressional Global Community Oscars next year. A huge kudos to Dr. Vijay Prabhakar for conceiving, producing, and directing the event and to Danny K. Davis for his unconditional support, unwavering commitment to AMEC and MEATF and anchoring the event for the 12th year.



Asian Media USA





## AMEC GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings and Welcome  
 June is a historical month; particularly June 19.... June 19,1865 came to be known as Juneteenth, the date that enslaved people of Galveston TX finally received the news that they were free by Executive order. Juneteenth celebrations spread quickly to the rest of the country and the date continues to be the oldest known tradition honoring the end of slavery in the United States.

Freedom is a Means, not an end in itself. We often take our freedom for

granted, but freedom is to be cherished, appreciated and held close. We see Freedom being threatened at home and abroad and the effects are painful and devastating. May God continue to Bless us, Unite us and grant us His Peace. Thank you Congressman Danny Davis for your leadership, guidance and all you do to empower our communities. Thank you Dr Vijay G. Prabhakar for your vibrant leadership and vision and for propelling AMEC to the stellar organization it is today. May we continue to grow and

change the world for good. Thanks and appreciation to all of our members and volunteers for your time, support, energy and ideas and dedication. Congratulations to all of the 2023 Congressional Awardees. My prayer is that we continue to work together, grow together and assist and impact our communities, which will in turn impact and change the world for good!

**Dr Zenobia Sowell, Governor  
 American Multi Ethnic Coalition,  
 Inc, AMEC USA**

## AMEC FOUNDER PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS



2022 has been an exciting year for our American Multi Ethnic Coalition U.S.A On January 26th, 2022, we launched the GSA India @75th Expo to commemorate India's 75th Independence Day anniversary with a spectacular curtain raiser on September 22 & 23, 2022 with the grand historic expo taking place on December, 15 to 17, 2022 at Sheraton Lisle Naperville, IL On February 19, 2022, our 11th AMEC Congressional Global Community Oscars was a runaway success at Yellow Box, Naperville. Our 10th International Women's Day celebrations were successfully held in Capitol Hill, Washington D.C. on March 15, 2022, a first ever. On April 19, 2022, AMEC co-

hosted the Citizens Action Alliance for Behavioral Health Summit. AMEC leadership team visited India in April/May 2022, August/September 2022 and in November 2022 to meet with various Governors, Chief Ministers, and other persons of interest in India. During these trips we invited them to participate in the GSA India @75 Expo USA here in Chicago AMEC again celebrated the Chinese Lantern Festival in February 2022 and India's Diwali Festival in City of Chicago in October 2022. AMEC in Co-Operation with Medstar Laboratory Inc launched the monthly Golden Dinner Program at two senior building in west side of Chicago on December 20, 2022.,

Today AMEC has opened State Chapters in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington DC, California, Texas, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, and Michigan. AMEC's progress through participation and partnership is continuing to spread throughout the country. We are blessed with a great dynamic team of committed individuals who believe in empowering our Multi Ethnic Communities by engaging them in our innovative initiatives. Join us in our journey, as we partner together to empower our ethnic communities and transform lives.

**Dr. Vijay G Prabhakar  
 Founder President, AMEC - USA.**



## AMEC NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S GREETINGS

health, economic & developmental initiatives. AMEC has established an inimitable and robust way of communication and interaction to consider significant options of public policy. American Multi Ethnic Coalition Inc. (AMEC) was established in 2016 under the vibrant leadership of Dr. Vijay Prabhakar along with Multi Ethnic Task Force (MEATF) with the blessing of Congressman Danny Davis. AMEC plays an active role in encouraging and protecting minorities. It is a think tank, and Advisory Group that also addresses the issues that affect all ethnic communities including but not limited to Voter Registration, Immigration,

Healthcare, Racial Profiling and Employment Opportunities. Our discussions and actions over the past several years have covered a wide spectrum of issues and concerns in professional and business arena. AMEC strongly believes that our development efforts must deal with the challenges of economic hardship. I am confident that our deliberations and engagements have been very successful: a key indication of our success is our organization membership is growing under our leadership Council. Kudos to our AMEC & MEATF Gala Chair Naveen Karna. Thank you, Dr. Prabhakar for

your excellent leadership. To our valued members, I would like to seize this opportunity to publicly acknowledge your interest, support, and long hours of hard work as I have no doubt that you will continue to stand by us. Thank you for your dedication and commitment in furthering our vision. My plea at this juncture is to request your support to make sure that American Multi Ethnic Coalition along with Multi Ethnic Task Force can demonstrate, implement, and achieve its goal to assist our community. Cheers,

**Neal Patel American Multi Ethnic  
 Coalition Inc. USA  
 National Chairman**



## MULTI ETHNIC ADVISORY TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

as you serve on this prestigious council for 2023-2024. 2022 has been a successful year for all of us. God is good as always. I am pleased that our Executive Leadership Council for 2023-2024 is complete with passionate volunteers who share Congressman Danny Davis's dream of empowering our multi ethnic communities. We have a good mix of seasoned leaders, diehard volunteers and young spirit in our 2023-2024 Council to forge ahead. 2023 marks the 13th Year of our Task force having been founded in 2010. I would like to salute our previous Chairpersons 2010-2012: Dr. Muhammad Zahid (Pakistani American), 2013-2015 : Dr. Tapas Dasgupta (Indian American), and 2016-2019 : Kishor Mehta (Indian American). In early 2020, I an Indonesian American took pride

to take over as the Fourth Chairman of this vibrant empowerment and advocacy organization which has significantly impacted the social, economic and political landscape of our State of Illinois. The growth of this organization from strength to strength can be singularly credited to the passionate dedication, creative mindset, sustained hard work, and inspiring leadership of Dr. VGP, the Founder. Dr. VGP's inclusive leadership style to unite 38 different ethnic communities, is today a national model and has given birth to American Multi Ethnic Coalition, Inc. AMEC. Our priorities for 2022 -2023 are as follows 1. Health Care 2. International Education Connect 3. International Women's Day Gala - Women's Empowerment , 4. Global Community

Oscars -Ethnic Empowerment 5. Citizen's Action Alliance For Behavior Health - Mental Health and 6. Homelessness Collaborative. MEATF is a think tank and an advocacy group that also addresses the issues that affect the different ethnic communities including but not limited to Voter Registration, Immigration, Racial Profiling-Asian American Violence and Employment opportunities. We welcome each of you and trust that all of an together will forge ahead to empower the different ethnic communities.

**Martino Tangkar  
 Chairman  
 Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force U.S.  
 Congressman Danny K Davis 7th  
 Congressional District  
 Chicago, Illinois**

Congratulations to each of you on your appointment to the 7th Congressional District's MULTI ETHNIC ADVISORY TASK FORCE (MEATF) EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL. U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis personally conveys his best wishes to each of you





**AMEC SECRETARY GENERAL'S GREETINGS !  
BY SHREE GURUSAMY**

Greetings & Welcome !

This past year has been one of great challenge, change, loss & uncertainty. It has also been a year of reflection, blessings, opportunity and hope. The fact that we are still here in the land of the living should give each one of us a true sense of gratefulness for life, family, loved ones and friendships. American Multi Ethnic Community Coalition(AMEC) is in the forefront of several community initiatives. AMEC has evolved into a national organization under the robust guidance of U.S. Congressman Danny K Davis and our multi-faceted leader Dr Vijay G Prabhakar. AMEC now has chapters in New York, Texas, Arizona, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, California and Virginia. Our discussions over the past several year have covered a wide spectrum of issues and concerns in professional and business arena. It is indeed gratifying that during all of our discussions, U.S. Congressman Danny K Davis is in the forefront of reminding us that we need to constantly understand how



our development efforts would deal with the challenges of economic hardship and changing political landscape. I am confident that our deliberations and engagements have been very successful: a key indication of our success is that our AMEC membership is growing. Thank You, Congressman Davis and Dr Prabhakar for your excellent leadership. To our valued members, I would like to seize this opportunity to publicly acknowledge your interest, support and long hours of hard work as I have no doubt that you will continue to stand by us. Thank you for your dedication and commitment in furthering Congressman Danny Davis's vision. My plea at this time is to request your support to make sure that our American Multi Ethnic Coalition can continue to demonstrate, implement and achieve its goals to assist our communities.

**Shree Gurusamy  
Secretary General  
American Multi Ethnic Coalition Inc.**



**AMEC MARCHES ON .....**

An acclaimed motivational speaker Sally Coach once said, "Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day." I was able to relate to this saying quite frequently when I became a part of the American Multi Ethnic Coalition (AMEC) and actively participated in the multi-faceted activities that embody the organizational mission. Just a couple of years ago, I started as a volunteer helping backstage with the

entertainment part of programs and operations. The experience, comradery, and leadership skills I gained during this time were extremely valuable and this inspired and motivated me to become a bigger part of AMEC. I am grateful to the Founder and President, Dr. Vijay Prabhakar for inviting me play a leadership role in this growing organization. I am glad that I am able to lend my creativity in areas ranging from concept to implementation involving nitty gritty details of engaging people from all walks of life, planning and staging events, recognize special talent, dedication, and even promise and potential. It has been such a great pleasure to execute events such as the 2022 GSA Expo during the months of September and December of that year. The Expo showcased India's transformation in growth and development as one of the top global economies. In addition, for the first time ever in the United States, 18 young achievers across America were honored nationally to embrace and enlighten the Indian American youth as part of #75 Azadi Ka Amrit

Mahotsav celebrations in the USA. In January 2023, a GSA sequel was held in D.C. at the request of Congressman Danny K. Davis which was a huge success and in February 2023, the Global Eye International Institute of Leadership was launched in New York, NY. In March 2023, we also hosted two events to celebrate International Women's Day, one held in Chicago recognizing the top 20 Chicagoland women of excellence and another recognizing the top 20 global women of excellence held in Washington D.C. A couple of other notable initiatives were the launch of the Gandhi King Center for Non-Violence and followed by the historic roundtable with CEO's of MCO's and behavioral health providers in March 2023. The creative vision and positive leadership of Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar (VGP) continues to inspire us to believe in our vision and mission. His innovative ideas in developing partnerships, collaborations and focus on people and causes that unite us globally are both challenging and exciting. Several individuals have been vocal in praising AMEC initiatives as they believe

that they were motivated to become positive contributors under helpful friendly guidance to foster community in our shared world. AMEC membership continues to grow rapidly as more people find joy and fulfillment in serving their communities. Engaging and challenging our young talent in the Americas, Asia and other parts of the world is just one great example. I thank all the members of the AMEC executive and working teams for stretching themselves through hard work to help accomplish our organizational goals. Their dedication and unwavering support are growing rapidly, and I am thrilled that many are starting to experience the same fulfillment as I do. Being a part of AMEC started as volunteer work and it has now matured into being an integral part of my life. Let us bring more friendships, partnerships and togetherness as we journey through our lives and focus on working to make this world a better and happier place.

**Seeta Bala  
Vice President , AMEC USA**



**AMEC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREETINGS**

MEATF- Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force is a think tank and advocacy group established by Congressman Danny K. Davis in 2010 to empower the different ethnic communities of

Chicago by integrating them with the African American Community to share and serve the residents of City of Chicago. AMEC - American Multi Ethnic Coalition Inc. is a bipartisan state wide grassroots level organization representing 38 different ethnic communities. Multi Ethnic people from all walks of life have been the foundation of the City of Chicago and this great country, the United States of America. The 12th Annual MEATF & AMEC Global Community Oscars recognizes individuals who have excelled in serving us by leveraging their leadership to enlighten and empower us. I would like to express my appreciation to the Awards Jury headed by Dr. Zenobia

Sowell and the members of the jury for their efforts to select our 2023 Community & International Heroes. This is the largest Multi-Ethnic Festival in Chicagoland. Our media Partner is The Global Eye - World-Wide Digital Monthly that reaches 42 million households. 13 years is a milestone for an organization like MEATF where 38 different ethnic communities come together. The COVID pandemic tested our resilience as a coalition and also channelized our resources to reach out to those who were in need. All worked in unison and rose together on the occasion. MEATF and AMEC is a movement under the leadership of Congressman Danny K. Davis, founded

by Dr. Vijay G Prabhakar that works for our ethnic communities and for our overall development. Our visionary Congressman Danny K. Davis fights for transparency in government, strong economic structure and integrated development at all levels in his 7th Congressional district-IL and beyond. Let me take this opportunity to Congratulate all the Awardees and the Presenters for their outstanding work. My Prayer to all of you is to continue to do your best and together all of us can forge ahead. We must all stay united now and always to succeed.

**Naveen Karna  
AMEC Executive Director  
Naperville, IL**





# AMEC LT. GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

I have faith that sees the invisible, expects the incredible, receives the impossible. Faith that can conquer

anything. These are prophetic and powerful words during this lifetime, The Coronavirus, the pandemic and beyond. It was this prayer, mantra, and constant vigil the drove my belief that this too shall pass, and we would come out of the unknown at the inception of this crisis on the other side. Wise and Steadfast. Because of our tenacity and resilience, it was manifested in our drive to survive. Faith is believing in things we cannot always see, not understand. From the inception of the lockdown and the pervasive spread of the coronavirus. We strongly believe that God gives us the strength and hope that was path out country had not travel before overcame. Our founder Dr VGP was the conduit to reach out to members and went into action in

support of all the members, the fragile, vulnerable, and disconnected to ensure that their families were okay that someone was there for them in this time of uncertainty. Dr. VGP kept the lines of communications, giving all the hope, and reminding us that we had to continue keep our heads up and make sure we reached out to others whether it was through email, texts, or other forms of social media. This was the thread to pray, support and help one another in any capacity possible. AMEC spearheaded the Roundtable Summit of Behavioral Health providers with Managed Care Providers in a historic meet hosted by Citizens Action Alliance for Behavioral Health in April 2023. AMEC under the

visionary leadership of Dr.VGP launched the Gandhi King, Center for Non-Violence in Englewood, Chicago to commemorate Black History Month. AMEC Successfully hosted the 11th International Women's Day at Capitol Hill, Washington DC in March 2023. AMEC celebrated India Unity Day for third year in succession on March 24th, 2023. AMEC is proud to announce that we facilitated the opening of a Robotic facility in Rockford, Illinois. AMEC is forging ahead with a vibrant commission and active leadership council members. Join AMEC!!!, Victory is Yours!!!

**Manne Lingaiah**  
Lt. Governor  
American Multi Ethnic Coalition



# GALA CO-CHAIR ACKNOWLEDGES

for Anchoring this 12th U.S. Congressional Awards Gala. Our Appreciation goes out to:

Ann Smith and Mike Tjaarda of Naperville Yellow Box Christian Community Church for their unstinted cooperation, tireless work and enlightening spirit which took the Global Community Oscars to another level. To our MEATF dynamic leadership Governor Dr. Zenobia Sowell, MEATF Chairman Martino Thangkar and all our Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs, For the Wonderful work in unison which empowered us to make this a night to remember. We would like to thank the different entertainment groups who mesmerized us during the "Around the world in 60 minutes". We would like to salute the Chicago Curry House and its CEO Bala Ghimire, the professional caterers for the 12th community Oscars for the excellent dinner served at our Banquet. We salute the Banquet co-chairs Jerome Athistham, Kathy Thorat and Sandeep George and the host of volunteers for the extraordinary arrangements for the dinner at the banquet. We would like to thank Arlington Rentals for their support. We would like to thank "Endpoint Graphics", Mr. Nagendar Sripada, our printing partner we would like to record their precision from our back office for the

countless hours of extraordinary excellent work, Mr. Anil Pulla and his team at Design Cubes, Hyderabad. We would like to thank our sponsors Medstar and its CEO Neal Patel, Wells Real Estate Investment, our AMEC Global Ambassador at Windfall Group and the GSA Global Eye Magazine Congratulations to all the award winners and wishing you all every success as you continue to climb the ladder of success. We also would like to appreciate our distinguished presenters for taking the time to be with us and adding the extra sparkle to our global community oscars. A special word of gratitude to Ras boutique, Gazala Khan and her exotic models for an evening in Paris. Of Course our Showstopper of the evening, the impeccable dance performance by our very own Vijay Muralidharan and Subhash George, the replica of the Oscar award winning lyricist Nattu Nattu with such high energy reveals the remarkable innate talent of our leaders. We would like to thank the Cook county board President Toni Precwinkle. We would like to thank Our Mayor Scott Wehrli for being the Gala Czar and issuing the Special proclamation from the City of Naperville honoring the 12th Congressional Global Oscars. We would like to acknowledge the divine presence of

Prophet Reverend Paulson Raj Sangala, the founder of Society for Christ who has traveled all the way from Warrangal, India, the Young woman of the year Roopashi Khatri from Bengaluru, India, the international Rising Sports star of the Year Ulhas Koravi Satyanaran from New Delhi, India, the rising Star of the Year U.S. Congressman Shri Thanedar from our neighboring state Michigan, the humanitarian of the year Poonam Dhatta, founder of Sewa Atlanta and Little Angel Chen our youngest awardee from ChinaTown. We thank the Media for the extraordinary ABC7 TV, Chicago StreetWise, The Crusader, The Global Eye Magazine, Desitalk, Hi India, India Post, AsiaNet, Flowers TV, and Chinatown News. Thanks to Megha Bala for being creative in writing the Emcee scripts and the Presenter Scripts A Big thank you to the on-Stage and Back Stage team led by Swapnil Sahu, along with Abitha Dhanaraj, Vibha Rajput, Siddharth Jai and Robert York. Last but not the least, Thanks to our Emcees Vincent Gray, Seeta Bala and Shree Gurusamy.

YES TOGETHER WE SHINE BETTER!!!  
**Alli Dhanaraj**  
Gala Co-Chair  
12th U.S. Congressional Awards Gala

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**AN AMAZING SPELLBOUND AROUND THE WORLD IN 60 MINUTES NON-STOP MEDLEY OF MUSIC, SONG & DANCE AT DR VGP'S 12TH ANNUAL GLOBAL COMMUNITY OSCARS**

**Diversity and Musical Brilliance in AMEC's Stunning Cultural Extravaganza**



**Twin Green**



**Femi Ogebule & The Royal Voices**



**Kalinka Russian Dance Group**



**Chinese Dance Group**

**Mohita Sukumar**  
**Chicago News Bureau Chief**  
Naperville came alive with a vibrant display of global culture and musical talent as the city hosted the 12th Congressional Global Community Oscars Gala, a spectacular festival on June 17th, 2023, Saturday evening. The event, held at yellow box Naperville, showcased a lineup

of talented performers representing various ethnicities, captivating the audience with their awe-inspiring acts. Kicking off the festivities, the evening began with warm greetings from Dr Twin Green, AMEC Special Events Chair followed by the magic that continued as Femi Ogebule & The Royal

Voices took to the stage. Ogebule, a saxophonist, artist, and humanitarian, mesmerized the audience with his soulful melodies and heartfelt performance. Recognized globally for his annual gospel event, Praise Experience, Ogebule's dedication to helping human trafficking victims and young widows in Africa earned him the esteemed World Civility Ambassador

Award. The evening showcased the rich tapestry of Russian and Chinese cultures through captivating dance performances. Kalinka Group, a traditional Russian folk-dance ensemble, delighted the audience with their energetic and graceful moves, while the Chicago Guangzhou Association presented a vibrant Chinese folk dance called "Luo Flower." These performances highlighted the importance of cultural preservation and the enduring beauty of traditional dances. The festival took a spirited turn as Ballet Folklorico Quetzalcoatl, a nationally recognized Mexican folk-dance troupe, graced the stage. Led by Juan Manuel "Nery" Cruz, the group showcased their dynamic choreography, captivating the crowd with their vibrant costumes and lively music. The troupe, composed of talented dancers from across Illinois, has been enchanting audiences for over 30 years. African Soul Company brought the rhythm and energy of Africa to the stage with their mesmerizing performance. Combining music, dance, tumbling, and

magic, the international food and entertainment company offered a unique insight into the rich heritage of Africa and its surrounding regions. The CEO and founder's vision to bridge cultural gaps and provide a better understanding of Africa through their shows was embraced by the crowd. The Indonesian Dance of Illinois mesmerized the audience with their performance of Tari Wirayuda, a dance inspired by the legendary Ramayana. Hanuman, the Monkey King, took center stage as he embarked on a mission to bring a ring to the heavens for Princess Sinta, battling an angry giant along the way. The performance showcased the grace, beauty, and storytelling prowess of Indonesian dance. The festival paid homage to Poland's rich cultural heritage through a captivating Polish Dance Ensemble. With dances rooted in centuries of Polish history, the ensemble transported the audience to another time and place. The traditional Polish dances, unique to the region, were a reminder of the country's deep-rooted customs and histori-



**African Soul Dance**



MESMERISING DANCE PERFORMANCE OF OSCAR AWARD WINNING LYRICIST NATU NAATU NAATU BY VIJAY MURALIDARAN & SUBASH GEORGE



a testament to the power of music and culture in bringing communities together. By celebrating diversity and showcasing the talents of artists from various backgrounds, the event fostered understanding, appreciation, and unity among the attendees. The unforgettable performances left an indelible mark on the hearts of those present, reinforcing the city's commitment to embracing and celebrating cultural richness. As the festival came to a close, the audience left with a renewed sense of appreciation for the arts and the power of cultural exchange. The magical evening at Millennium Park served as a reminder of the profound impact that music and dance can have in bridging divides and uniting people from all walks of life.

cal significance.

The night culminated in a soul-stirring performance by Soloist Bianca Newton, who enthralled the audience with her rendition of Whitney Houston's classic hit, "I Wanna Dance with Somebody." Newton's outstanding vocals and commanding stage presence showcased her immense talent, leaving the crowd wanting more.

The festival also featured a captivating performance by the Ghunguru Dance Group, presenting an Indian dance invoking Lord Krishna. The gorgeous ladies danced to the auspicious music of Shri Hari Stotram, a popular prayer to Lord Vishnu written by Sri Swami Brahmananda. The concept and choreography of the performance were skillfully executed

by Sridevi Ram Pandalai, captivating the audience with their graceful movements and devotion. The event also provided a platform for young talent to shine. Twelve-year-old prodigy, Christiana Gray, captivated the audience with her thought-provoking spoken word performance. Gray, a social activist, accomplished entrepreneur, and author, displayed wisdom beyond her

years, captivating hearts and minds with her eloquence and passion. Finally, we had an enchanting rendition of the national anthem by Bianca Newton, a gifted musician hailing from north Chicago. With a background in Musical Theatre, Newton's remarkable vocal prowess resonated with the crowd, setting the stage for an unforgettable evening. The festival proved to be



Vincent Gray



Ghunguru Dance Academy



Ballet Folklorico Quetzalcoat Dance Team



Indonesian Dance



Bianca Newton



Polish Dance Group



Christianna Gray



**AMEC INSTITUTES PRESIDENT TONI PRECKWINKLE STUDENT OF EXCELLENCE AWARD AT DR VGP'S GLOBAL COMMUNITY OSCARS IN RECOGNITION OF THE DYNAMIC INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP OF COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PRESIDENT TONI PRECKWINKLE ON JUNE 17, 2023**



**NISHA PANTHEE**

**Prospect High School,  
Mt. Prospect, IL**

Nisha Panthee is the daughter of Nepali immigrants who have made a new life in the United States of America.



She is currently a rising sophomore at Prospect High School in Mt. Prospect, Illinois where her academic prowess are shown as her role as a Honors student. Academics is not all that she excels at, since childhood, she has been active in the community, actively volunteering for multiple organizations, two of standouts for her are the Education Foundation of Nepal and the Arlington Heights Farmers' market. She spends the weekends there to truly make an impact and make her an invaluable contributor for the organizations.



**Ms. Anu Malhotra, Yoga & Meditation Guru hosted the Awards Ceremony while Dr Ajit Pant, President, USA India Chamber of Commerce introduced the first awardee, Nisha Pantee. Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle gratefully acknowledged the honor of having an Award in her name and presented the Oscar to the inaugural Awardee Nisha Pantee in a colorful ceremony at the banquet.**

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY DR TWIN GREEN**

Welcome to the Dr. VGP's 12th Congressional Global Community Oscars. This most anticipated event of the year was created by our visionary leader Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar, the Creative Master Strategist and his dazzling, dynamic and dedicated leadership team led by Naveen, Seeta, Shri, Alli, Shivam and Charming Kathy, our floating Maharani. Tonite the 12th Dr. VGP's Global Community Oscars is hosted by the Living Legend U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis, along with the presence of Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, Rep. Bill Foster, newly elected Congressman Jonathan Jackson, and our Detroit Congressman Shri Thanedan who is being honored as the Rising Star of America tonight. We open this evening's gala with "Around the World in 60 minutes", a non-stop medley of music, song & dance co-ordinated by Shree Gurusamy, AMEC Secretary General. A

mesmerizing segment which leaves you enlightened and refreshed. Then we have the Official Color Guards salute by Great Lakes Naval Center followed by the processional. We have 38 awards representing 38 Ethnic communities who are part of American Multi Ethnic Coalition - AMEC USA. Popular ABC TV news anchor Cathleen Cauguiran, a Filipino American, is the Journalist of the year, and Chinese American child Angel Chen is our Outstanding Child of the Year. Cook County health CEO, Israel Rocha, a Hispanic American is the Health care administrator of the year, Powervolt Inc headed by Brig Sharma, an Indian American is named Corporate of the year, Janalie Bingham, Founder, CEO of the Wells Real Estate Investment, Florida - A French Haitian American is the Entrepreneur of the year for her Wells Finance Miracle, Sheriff Jim Mendrick, the Dupage County Sheriff receives the distinguished leadership award

and Dione Harden, CEO of "You Break it, You Fix It" Foundation Chicago receives the Lady of Love Lily Prabhakar Change Maker Award are among our 38 community and international heroes that we are celebrating tonight. Well, the highlight of this gala is exotic fashion show, an evening in Paris featuring European Models in between the Award Ceremony, followed by the showstopper 2023 Oscar Award winning Lyricist dance number Nattu Nattu being performed live this evening by our very own Vijay Muralidharan and Subash George. The Grand Finale from 9:30 to 11:00 PM showcasing Chicagoland's best singers including Beyonce's Number, Robert York, the Chicago Rapper, Nigerian Singer Ejrie Dollars and a bevy of Bollywood singers to rock the night away. We would like to acknowledge the media who are joining us this evening, particularly ABC Channel 7 News, AsiaNet TV, Flowers TV, Global Eye Digital TV, Desitalk, News India Times, Hi India, The Crusader, Streetwise Nepalese Bijay Thapa,



The Chinese American Media among all other media who are with us tonight. All of you keep smiling, as your smile is beamed across 38 countries watching Dr. VGP's 12th Congressional Oscar's Gala. We What you become is a result of what you do today: "Do something great to transform lives", these are the words of our Anchor Vincent Gray, an Educator Extraordinaire, motivational and transformational speaker, who prides himself on empowering people to dream bigger than they can possibly achieve. VINCENT GRAY





GLOBAL COMMUNITY OSCARS  
OUTSTANDING CHILD OF THE YEAR



Angel Chen is 6 years old,, she is a bubbly young girl who excels in doing little things well. A student of St. Therese Chinese Catholic School in Chicago. Awarded the Best Outgoing student from Kindergarten of St. Therese Chinese Catholic School earlier this year. Angel Chen is an avid reader; she is learning Chinese dance and boxing. An all rounder equally happy to play and SPend time with friends and teachers alike. Energetic with a highly positive outlook and eager to build a helping mindset. Angel Chen is daughter of Mr & Mrs. Frankie Chen

**MISS ANGEL CHEN**  
St. Theres School  
China Town



GLOBAL COMMUNITY OSCARS  
CHILD PRODIGY OF THE YEAR



**AARAV KARNA**

6th Grade, JFK Middle School. Plainfield, IL

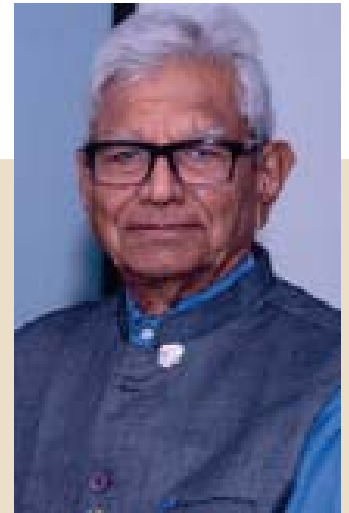
affordable. He is a Student Council and journalism club member, focusing on live and print media. He also frequently writes technology-related articles for GLOBAL EYE magazine's youth section. He is also working on starting a new club focused on robotics (STEAM) by next year.

Aarav is also a student of Stemshala, and he participated in FIRST® LEGO® League Season Challenges in Dec 2022 and went up to the state-level competition. In sports, he is pursuing cricket and Chess. He is a student of CMCE Sports Academy. Additionally, He is spending most of his time exploring rocket technologies and space programs. He is a big follower of Elon Musk and follows SpaceX programs daily. His curiosity about

flying machines makes him United Airlines pilots to get engage with people to know more answers to his curiosity about them. At the age of 6, He flying during one of his spent more than 30 min time with vacations.



GLOBAL COMMUNITY OSCARS  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



**DR. PRAKASAM TATA**

Dr. Prakasam Tata has more than six decades of teaching, research, and professional experience in the field of environmental science and engineering. He obtained his Ph.D. from Rutgers University. He served as a faculty member of Cornell University for 8 years. Subsequently, he served at the

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Grtr. Chicago with ~30 years and retired as its Assistant Director and Head of the Environmental Research and Monitoring Division. He is certified by the American Academy of Environmental Scientists and Engineers as a Board-Certified

Environmental Scientist (BCES) by eminence and is the recipient of its Edward Cleary Award. He received many other awards including a few Lifetime Achievement awards and the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor. He consulted with various national and international organizations such as UNDP, USAID, World Bank, National Academy of Sciences, etc. He served on various committees of the Water Environment Federation, USA, and he was also honored as its Fellow. He also serves as the Executive Director and President of two nonprofit organizations, Center for the Transformation of Waste Technology and Bharathi Theertha, respectively. He is recently appointed as an Honorary Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences, Engineering, and Management of Andhra University, India. He is an active Rotarian and a Member of the Water and Sanitation (WASH) and

Environmental Sustainability (ESRAG) Rotary Action Groups. He is instrumental in doing several humanitarian projects to help the poor in the fields of education, environment, and health.

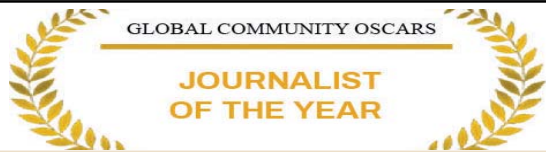




**CATHLEEN CAUQUIRAN**

**ABC 7 TV  
Eyewitness News  
Team, Chicago, IL**

Award-winning journalist Cate Cauquiran joined Chicago's top news station, ABC 7, as a general assignment reporter in 2017. As a member of the ABC 7 Eyewitness News Team, Cauquiran has



covered important local stories including the tragic death of Chicago Police Commander Paul Bauer, the arrest of a Northwestern professor wanted in the death of a Chicago man, and a firefighter who died while in the line of duty. Prior to joining ABC 7, Cauquiran worked as a general assignment reporter and fill-in anchor at KPIX-TV, the CBS station in San Francisco. During her tenure in San Francisco, she was awarded multiple Emmys for her reporting on the deadly warehouse fire in Oakland, and for her coverage during Super Bowl 50. Before joining KPIX-TV, Cauquiran was a morning anchor in Medford, Oregon where she also worked as a reporter and producer. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California, where she double majored in journalism and international relations, and got her master's degree in communication management. Cauquiran grew up in a military family on Marine Corps and Naval bases in Japan. Her father is a retired Senior



Chief in the Navy. Cauquiran currently volunteers her time with the Filipino American National Historical Society and Philippine American Cultural Foundation. Her honors include multiple Emmy awards and later this year she will receive the Golden Legacy Award for her Outstanding Achievements in Journalism. Cauquiran was married in January 2019 in her parents' hometown in the Philippines, and will have a second ceremony in her husband's hometown of Madison, Wisconsin, in the fall of 2019



**VISHAL GHIMIRE**

**DePaul University**

My name is Vishal Ghimire, and I am currently a Junior at DePaul University, majoring in Accounting in the Strobel Honors Accounting Program. I work part-time as a



manager at Chicago Curry House and Nepal House and plan on graduating this quarter. I have worked in the hospitality industry for six years and had a tax internship with Plante Moran this past winter. With this experience comes my exceptional attention to detail, organization skills, communication skills, and ability to lead others. I have an immense passion for helping others and leaving clients and guests with the highest form of satisfaction. My goal is to become a CPA alongside attaining my J.D. I hope to use the knowledge gained from education to expand my business further and create a brand name recognized throughout the world.



**SHASHI TANDON**

Mrs Shashi Tandon has been serving the Indian Community as a Female Priestess since 1984. She was published in the front page of NATIONAL PAPER Chicago



Tribune for her Wedding Ceremonies. She was invited to conduct the interfaith prayers in New York representing Hindu Religion during the 911 attack. She is one of the founder members of Arya Samaj Of Chicagoland. She is very well respected and loved by the Indian Community for her extraordinary way of conducting Religious services in her melodious voice. She has served extensively, performed prayer services at one in every 10 Indian homes and has helped to keep our Ancient Culture alive here in the USA. She has also served at several Temples of Chicago including Hari Om Mandir, Hindu Satsang & Arya Samaj Of Chicagoland. She is highly regarded by the Indian Community for her Knowledge of Vedas, her positive &



vibrant personality. She has also known Hindu Priestess & a Yoga/taught her Children, Grandchildren and Great Grand children Vedic Mantras. Her Daughter Anu Malhotra is now carrying her torch as a well known Meditation Teacher. She has received several awards by several local organizations for her community service.





**AKSHITA BODDAPU**

Austin, Texas

Akshita Boddapu is a Chief Marketing Officer for Arytic Inc, A Next-Gen Artificial Intelligence Predictive Hiring Platform. She is also a Co-Founder of the Non-Profit Blessing Account, which transforms philanthropic work



and social impact through its technology. Her career began with a passion for giving back to others and creating opportunities where others deemed there to be none. Akshita holds a bachelor's degree in marketing and international business from the renowned Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. Throughout her years at the Kelley School, she has served on the executive board as president of the organization Women & Company. Akshita's work in the organization has allowed her to grow the organization to one of the largest professional communities on campus, and she has personally mentored over 200 young female business students during her time there. In addition, Akshita believes culture and tradition are essential as a first-generation Indian American. She has 15 + years of professional training in



the Indian classical art forms of Kuchupudi and Bharatnatyam and has performed for international cultural organizations. She has graduated in her art form, taught workshops, performed ballets, and motivated young students to

use dance to connect to India's cultures and promote the classical art form. Akshita believes that her values of culture, mentorship, resilience, and hard work have put her on the path toward making her dreams a reality.



**TOMMY BANKS III**

Naperville, IL



Tommie Banks III was born in Rochester, NY. Tommie has traveled many places to capture some great memories. He does photography for all occasions. He's been in the business for over 29yrs. He has excellent Photographic skills, He possesses an extraordinary creative mind, with techniques to capture moments with an eye for detail which are second to none. His work has been published in several magazines and a few personal books.



**BRIJ SHARMA**

Power Volt Inc, Addison, IL

Electrical Engineer from Punjab Engineering College Chandigarh, India. After finishing Engineering in 1969 moved to Germany and then to Brazil. After 10 years working in upper management of Siemens in Brazil



moved to the USA in July 1983. Started PowerVolt in 1986 from the basement manufacturing DC Power Supplies. In 1991 acquired a transformer manufacturing company in Galina/IL Moved the manufacturing to Chicagoland area in 1996. Acquired ECC in 1997, Wabash in 2007, Ensign in 2008, ITI in 2016, Prem Magnetics in 2021 and more coming. Currently The PowerVolt Group has 2 plants in the USA, 2 plants in Mexico and a few vendor partners in China. The Group employes 150 people at present and aiming at 500 soon. PowerVolt is a sole supplier to many Fortune 100 companies. Brij was selected "Jewel of Punjab in 2019" and "Jewel of India in 2023" by Maneesh Media. PowerVolt was selected among the Top 10 Power Electronics Solutions Providers for



2022 by Manufacturing Technology Insights Magazine various community PowerVolt selected Most Trusted Transformers Chairman of Hari Om Mandir, Solutions Provider-2023 by Patron Member of Hindu Enterprise World Magazine. Temple of Greater Chicago, Brij is entrepreneur, former chairman of UPA – philanthropist and community United Punjabis of America.





**ISRAEL ROCHA JR**

**CEO, Cook County Health, Chicago, IL**

Israel Rocha Jr. became the Chief Executive Officer of Cook County Health (CCH) in December 2020, overseeing a healthcare system with a rich 185-year history of providing care to all patients, regardless of income, insurance, or immigration status. CCH comprises two hospitals, including the largest



trauma center in the Midwest, over a dozen community health centers, Cermak Health Services at the Cook County jail and Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, the Cook County Department of Public Health, and CountyCare, the largest Medicaid managed care plan in Cook County. With an annual budget of \$3.8 billion, CCH serves over 500,000 individuals annually. Prior to joining CCH, Rocha held leadership positions in the New York City Health + Hospitals (NYC Health + Hospitals) system, including Vice President and CEO of NYC Health + Hospitals Elmhurst and Queens hospitals. NYC Health + Hospitals is the largest public health system in the United States, with an annual budget exceeding \$8 billion. Rocha's experience in managing the COVID-19 pandemic in New York City equipped him with valuable insights, and he quickly established himself as a hands-on and visionary leader at CCH during the ongoing public health crisis. In addition to managing COVID-19 patients, Rocha challenged the CCH team to create one of the nation's largest community mass vaccination programs. This involved repurposing various



venues, such as big box stores, convention centers, and community colleges, and collaborating with partners throughout the county. The goal is to administer 1 million doses of the vaccine, and as of November 21, 2021, CCH had already administered over 910,000 doses. Throughout his career, Rocha has demonstrated a track record of success. At Elmhurst

Hospital, he implemented an improvement plan that turned around financial performance, increased patient revenue, and improved operational efficiency. At Queens, he spearheaded the development of a Sickle Cell Center of Excellence, initiated a Hip and Knee Joint Replacement Program, and launched a new Primary Stroke Center.



**GARY CHEN**

**President of Hong Kong Association & Park to Shop Supermarket, Chicago, IL**

I am Jian Ming Chen. I immigrated to the United States more than 30



years ago. I work earnestly and responsibly, persist through hardships, and easily adapt to various environments. Through my continuous efforts, I have achieved considerable results in my career. I am currently president of the Chicago Hong Kong Club and chairman for PTS Hong Kong Supermarket Group, Jacky Chen Restaurant Group, and Starway International Food Group in the United States. My companies' businesses mainly involve supermarket chains, restaurant chains, international food distribution, real estate development, and so on. The extent of my businesses has expanded throughout the United States from Cleveland, Ohio to Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York City. In addition to being an enthusiastic and hard-worker while possessing strong team spirit, I also play



an active role in my local community. I assist with coordinating and participating in neighborhood events for the elderly, providing assistance to students, and caring for the disabled. I am receptive to feedback and make suggestions for the development and

growth of the China Association which contribute to the continuous improvements for the Chinese community. My contributions to economic and social development have been recognized and supported by the local and overseas Chinese governments.



**JANALIE BINGAM**

**Founder & CEO, Wells Real Estate Investment LLC, Florida**

Ms. Janalie Bingham, CEO of Wells Real Estate Investment, is an accomplished real estate investor with experience in



real estate acquisition, non-traditional financing, asset-based lending, development and asset management. Ms. Bingham has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from BYU-Hawaii, and after graduating worked abroad in Taiwan and Thailand before settling in South Florida where she currently resides and manages Wells Real Estate Investment portfolio with her capable team. Ms. Bingham speaks fluent Spanish from living in Ecuador as a missionary and is also fluent in French, which she learned while working for a real estate investment fund in France. Ms. Bingham has been involved in multiple commercial and residential real estate transactions over the past 15 years, both nationally and globally and has successfully built a strong current portfolio totaling over \$100 Million. Through partnerships with city governments, Wells works to build communities and families by creating job opportunities across the United States and abroad



through their many development and construction projects that incorporate sustainable and environmentally friendly building, and development initiatives. Within the framework of their flagship brand, the Asset to Income Program, they focus on building communities one investment at a time by allowing families and individuals to participate as lenders on their projects, thereby increasing their net worth and forging a path to financial security. Simultaneously, their asset maximization program breathes new life

into low-performing communities, making them modern, vibrant, and affordable. They take pride in actively shaping the landscapes they work in and create environments that foster community, growth, and prosperity. Ms. Bingham has built a remarkable team, diverse in backgrounds and united by their shared passion for bettering communities. Together, they bring a dynamic energy to their endeavors, enabling them to make a tangible and lasting impact.





**REV. DR. PAULSON RAJ SANGALA**

**Founder & President, Society of Christ, Karunapuram, Telangana, India**

Sangala Paulson Raj was born into a Christian family in Bheemaram village, Telangana State, India, on March 7th, 1973. Despite facing poverty and personal challenges,



**DANNY K DAVIS  
PEACE PRIZE 2023**

his spiritual zeal and faith in Christ Jesus remained steadfast. After a miraculous healing experience, Paulson committed himself to serving God. He started his ministry in 1991 in a small hut in Karunapuram, where he witnessed remarkable healings and a growing number of people accepting Jesus Christ as their savior. In 2004, due to doctrinal dissensions, Paulson established his own ministry. With unwavering faith, he laid the foundation for a church in 2016, despite having no money. Through the inspiration and contributions of dedicated individuals, the church began to take shape. The church features a CST dome from Texas, an acoustically treated interior, a Nexo sound system imported from France, and a flooring of Colonial gold, Colonial white, and Sivakasi granite. The church, inaugurated on May 4th, 2023, has become a sensation, attracting thousands of visitors and receiving government



support. Paulson's ministry has operated 500 churches with commissioned over a thousand permanent pastors and sisters pastored, prepared thousands of engaged in ministry work. Paulson has been honored with an honorary doctorate of divinity for his remarkable contributions. All the glory is attributed to the grace and strength provided by the Lord Jesus Christ.



**ROOPASHI KHATRI**

**Bengaluru, India**

Roopashi Khatri is a leading board member of the CMR Gandhi Public School, an eminent institution of primary and secondary education in the Silicon Valley of India (Bengaluru). Her efforts have helped build an innovative and exciting curriculum for students to



**YOUNG WOMEN OF THE YEAR (GLOBAL)**

hone their skills in problem solving, digital literacy and creative expression. She is an alumna of National Law School of India University, Bengaluru and holds a Master of Law (International Taxation) from King's College London. She has advised numerous individual and corporate clients on the legal aspects of domestic and cross-border transactions (including mergers and acquisitions) and constitutional law. She has also taught and lectured at prestigious law universities in India. She has dedicated her efforts to pioneering policy reform in India and has previously advised the Government of India on its tax policies. At present, she is the Senior Associate of the Legal and Regulatory Function at the Indian Institute



for Human Settlements - an academic, research and practice institution dedicated to the urban transformation of India, that works with grantors such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the International Labour Organization and United Nations. She is a prolific writer and has published various articles in law reviews and national newspapers. She has appeared as a regular panellist in international conferences, as well as on prime-time televised debates concerning legal and policy issues.



**BOB & ANN BETTINARDI**

**Tinley Park, IL**

Bettinardi Golf was founded in 1998 by manufacturer, designer, and entrepreneur Robert J. Bettinardi. In 1991, Robert took his passion for golf and turned the putter industry upside down and into what it is today



**COUPLE OF THE YEAR**

by crafting a putter from a solid block of metal. He coined the term "one-piece technology" where at the time other manufacturers used castings, forgings, and welding's to create putters. Robert became the go-to for all the top OEM's in the golf industry after his manufacturing breakthrough, which was born from a tenacious effort to make an average putter obtain added confidence and greatness on the greens. The unrivaled combination of Robert J. Bettinardi's talent as an innovative club designer, in addition to his state-of-the-art machining methods, has proven to be the pure formula for success at Bettinardi in the USA and worldwide. In 2012, Robert's son, Sam Bettinardi, joined the company to lead the marketing and sales



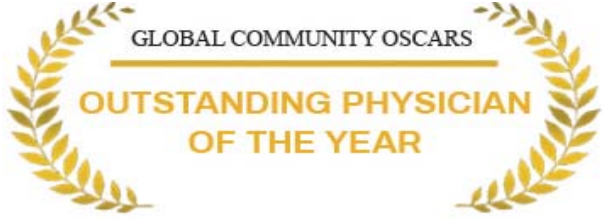
division, and to expand E-commerce businesses. Bettinardi Golf has amassed over 98 worldwide Tour wins since 1998, Bettinardi putters continue to prove their distinction and find their ways into the game's best golfers hands around the globe. Ann Bettinardi, wife of Founder/CEO Robert Bettinardi





**DR. RAJIV KANDAL**  
Jackson Park Hospital, 7531 S. Stony Island, Chicago, IL 60619.

Rajiv Kandala is a highly qualified and accomplished medical professional with extensive experience in family medicine, medical management, and leadership roles. He holds an M.D. degree from



SABA University School of Medicine and an MBA from Keller School of Management. He is board certified in family medicine, medical direction, and hospice and palliative medicine. Dr. Kandala's professional experience includes serving as a faculty physician at Jackson Park Hospital and as an assistant professor at Chicago Medical School. He has also held positions as a teacher of family medicine at various institutions and served as the Chairman of Family Medicine at Windsor University School of Medicine and Hospital Chairman at Windsor University School of Medicine. In terms of leadership roles, Dr. Kandala has been the President of the medical staff at South Shore Hospital and the Chairman of the Department of Medicine at South Shore Hospital. He has also held treasurer positions at South Shore Hospital and Jackson Park Hospital. Additionally, he has served as a medical director in several organizations, including Capital Hospice, Sanctuary Hospice, Alden/Infinity/



Renaissance/Nucare, Passages Hospice, and Odyssey Hospice. Dr. Kandala is an active member of professional organizations such as the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), the Hospice and Palliative Medicine AAHPM, and the American Medical Director Association AMDA. He has received numerous honors and awards for his contributions to the field of medicine. His community involvement includes volunteer work for charitable foundations such as IMA and the Sri Satya Sai Volunteer Organization. Dr. Kandala is licensed to practice medicine in the state of Illinois. He is married, in good health, and a citizen of the United States



**POONAM DATTA**  
CFO, Seva Adult Day Care and Home Care, Norcross, Georgia

Poonam Datta is the esteemed Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Seva Adult Care, an expanding senior care organization that she established in January 2017. Her visionary approach stems from her



lifelong ambition to serve and enhance the quality of life for the elderly within her community. Her passionate commitment to this cause has been instrumental in creating a nurturing environment where seniors receive high-quality care while experiencing happiness and a sense of belonging. Under her expert leadership, her son Chirag joined the organization in 2019, leading to the establishment of Seva Home Care and Seva Family Caregiver services. These initiatives include a notable Structured Family Program designed to assist low-income families earn an income while providing care for their loved ones at home. With the onset of the pandemic, Seva has also been committed to running Telehealth programs, demonstrating its adaptability in continuing vital services such as online daycare and food delivery for seniors. Poonam holds an impressive academic background, with a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Tech. Following a successful 21-year career working for multinational corporations, she made the bold decision to leave the corporate sector to realize her enduring dream of serving seniors. In addition to her role at



Seva Adult Care, Poonam also dedicates herself to volunteer work, particularly with the Art of Living Foundation. Her contributions range from service projects, such as 'Care For Children' and 'Gift A Smile', aimed at bringing joy to seniors in nursing homes. Recognizing the importance of holistic wellbeing, Poonam became a SKY Breath Meditation teacher in 2019 to help individuals manage stress and improve their quality of life. She is also enthusiastically involved in planning the World Cultural Festival, which is set to take place in Washington DC in September 2023. Poonam Datta's unwavering dedication to improving the lives of seniors, combined with her formidable professional and academic credentials, make her a prominent figure in the field of senior care. Her compassionate leadership and commitment to service continue to inspire and positively impact those around her.



**LINDA BI**  
CEO, Chicago Export Importers, Batavia, IL

Linda Bi is the President of Chicago Expert Importers (CEI). Born in Henan, China, she immigrated to U.S. 30 years ago. She and her husband started CEI as a sourcing company of mainly RV/mobile home parts. In 2000, her husband



suddenly passed, and Linda became the President and sole owner of the company. After 20 years of diligent perseverance, she advanced the company from a single casting line to a variety of 10+ product lines. Her supplierbase increased to 40+ in Asia-Pacific, customer base increased nationwide, including Fortune 500 companies. Her 120,000 square foot warehouse with customs-bonded area is located in Batavia, IL, ready to assist clients with e-commerce, warehousing and distribution projects. With many years of accomplishments in sourcing, logistics, and distribution field, Linda gained rich experience in international business. She is always happy to share her experiences and lessons with anyone interested in developing businesses in this area. Through global business transactions, her hope is to give people an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other. Her desire is to open communication and aid in bringing positivity to globalization. After all, every culture and heritage should be shared and appreciated, so we can embrace the differences, benefit and learn from each other. She



believes people need to openly communicate with positivity and humility, so we can live together in a civilized, peaceful, and better world. Personally, Linda has been actively involved in her passion to serve local communities. She is the honorable President of Chicago Chinese American Women Chamber of Commerce, board member of Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global, board member of Chinese American Association at Greater Chicago, Vice Chairman of The Midwest Henan Fellows Association Vice Chairman, and an active participant of local Batavia Chamber of Commerce. Life can be difficult at times, but she is grateful of her blessings and eager to contribute to the communities and those around her. She is dedicated to philanthropy, offering her time, financial support and anything needed to give back and help make the world a greater place.



**BHATT FOUNDATION**

535 High Mountain Road, North Haledon, NJ 07508



The Bhatt Foundation, Inc, founded under the leadership of Hitesh and Kim Bhatt in 2015 . 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization centered on providing innovative technology and education solutions to the disadvantaged peoples of the world. Our vision is simple; we are passionate about "Improving Global Healthcare and Education through Innovation". We believe that education is key to guiding children to a better future than they can currently see, and that healthcare is critical

to enabling students to learn Projects today in the United States, India, Honduras, Africa, Ethiopia and many more countries. Hitesh & Kim Bhatt : Mr. Hitesh Bhatt is a successful entrepreneur who founded and currently serves as the Founder of The Bhatt Foundation Inc. He provided expert advice to multiple large organizations as a C-Suite advisor. Inspired by his father's philanthropic spirit, Mr. Bhatt has dedicated his mission to revolutionizing healthcare with technology. Mr. Bhatt and his wife, Kim Bhatt, strongly advocate for education as a way to break the cycle of poverty. In addition to his role, Mr. Bhatt serves as a board member for various organizations; Suri Foundation in Maryland, USA, giantsteps, Serving the Autism Community in Chicago, FIA Chicago as an advisory committee and many more. His tireless work and community service have been honored by many organizations, including the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Passaic, and the Governor of the Bay Islands, Honduras, who appointed him as a Goodwill



Ambassador at Large in Innovative Healthcare and Education. Mr. Bhatt worked in healthcare industry his entire life including RUSH university, Chicago, Hackensack Univerisy Medical Center, NJ, Hackensack Meridian Health, NJ. Mr. Bhatt received an Honorary Degree of "Doctor of Advanced Studies (DAS) "Humanities" in 2020 from North American University. He resides in North Haledon, New Jersey, with his wife Kim and their two daughters, Haley and Amy. Kim Serves as a president of Bhatt foundation focusing on education. Kim attended universities in India and United States. In October

2019 Kim was honored by the UK Parliament in London, England and awarded the 2019 Global Gandhi Award for her vast community service efforts in health and education. In May 2019 Kim was honored by NJ Senator Nellie Pou during Women's History Month. This honor acknowledges outstanding women from throughout the 35th Legislative District, highlighting their leadership and unsung contributions to the community. Noted Senator Pou "(these women) have provided excellent service to the community and are excellent role models for our youth and for all women".



**DONNA MILLER**

Cook County Commissioner, 6th District, Chicago, IL

Donna Miller is currently the Cook County Commissioner of the 6th District and serves as Vice Chair of Contract Compliance, Workforce Development & Veterans Committees, and Chairman of the Forest Preserve



District Contract Compliance Committee. She has a background as a healthcare consultant working with leading pharmaceutical and biotech companies. Donna has tremendous experience in sales, training and development, and bringing together collaborations for new business with healthcare companies. Over her career, she has had responsibility for large volume accounts and led many cross-functional projects over a wide-range of courses, including webcasts, week long programs, workshops and online training. Her training experience includes: Consultative Selling Skills, Negotiation and Presentation Skills. She has received numerous awards and recognition for her professional accomplishments. Donna has been involved with community, civic and political activities throughout her life, including an internship on Capitol Hill, Red Cross Volunteer and working in communities disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS and Sickle Cell. Notably, she was instrumental in bringing together government, providers and advocate stakeholders to include Cystic Fibrosis in newborn



screening in Illinois. Commissioner Miller's political involvement includes membership on the League of Women Voters, serving on the Board of Planned Parenthood of Illinois, 2nd Vice-President of Illinois Democratic Women and former President of Democratic Women of the South Suburbs. She was a candidate for State Senator 2012. During the 2016 Presidential Election, Donna was part of the Illinois Delegation during the

Democratic National Convention serving on the Rules Committee in Philadelphia, PA. She is also a member: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated-Lambda Tau Omega Chapter. Donna is also often asked to speak to students as a mentor and role model and is truly passionate about empowering the youth to realize a significant future. She is married to the Honorable Dr. David E. Miller and has two boys.



**U. S. CONGRESSMAN SHRI THANEDAR**

13th Congressional District, Michigan

Congressman Shri Thanedar represents Michigan's 13th Congressional District, including areas like Wayne County, Detroit, Grosse Pointe, and Downriver. He is dedicated to improving the lives of hardworking families in the metro-



Detroit region. Before his election to Congress in 2022, Thanedar served in the Michigan House of Representatives, where he played a role in passing the largest increase in per-pupil funding for Michigan Public Schools in state history. Thanedar's personal experiences have shaped his perspective. He grew up in Southern India, facing poverty and its associated challenges. He pursued higher education and came to the United States in 1979 to earn his Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of Akron. While studying, he worked as a janitor and sometimes slept in his car. Later, as an entrepreneur, he founded successful companies that contributed to the development of life-saving pharmaceutical drugs. After retiring from business, Thanedar entered public service. In 2018, he ran for Governor of Michigan and subsequently ran for the Michigan Legislature in 2020. Throughout his political career, he has advocated for working families, focusing on issues such as universal



healthcare, raising the minimum wage, and improving infrastructure. Congressman Thanedar's commitment to addressing poverty and supporting Michigan families drives his efforts to secure more education and job training resources, a higher minimum wage, universal healthcare, and initiatives to foster

entrepreneurship in marginalized communities. By implementing these measures, he aims to close the racial wealth gap and promote the prosperity of families in southeast Michigan. Thanedar resides in Detroit's Palmer Woods neighborhood with his wife, Shashi, and is a proud father and grandfather.





**STATE REP LA SHAWN FORD**

**Illinois State Representative, 8th District**

Elected in 2007 to the Illinois House of Representatives representing the 8th District, Rep. Ford is an outspoken advocate for his



constituents. Rep. Ford is focused on social justice and disparities in employment, education, and the healthcare system. He has also worked to increase opportunities for ex-offenders, foster small business development, improve access to affordable housing, expand protections for our veterans, safeguard our environment and address our state's fiscal health. La Shawn is a firm believer in the power of responsible parenting and established the Council on Responsible Fatherhood, which aims to support fathers and help them to become more responsible and present. La Shawn consistently advocates for increased access to financial resources and institutions for marginalized communities and promotes the value of education among students in his district. State Rep La Shawn



Ford is a respected political figure known for his role as a representative in the state government. With a commitment to serving his constituents, Ford has worked diligently to advocate for community

empowerment, education reform, and criminal justice reform. He is recognized for his dedication to addressing pressing social issues and improving the lives of those he represents.



**HUMBOLDT PARK HEALTH**

**1044 N. Francisco Ave, Chicago, IL 60622**

José R. Sánchez, President and Chief Executive Officer of HUMBOLDT PARK HEALTH (HPH), is a senior health care executive with over 40 years of experience in operational, strategic and fiscal management of multi-faceted health care systems, and currently Chicago's only Latino CEO



of a hospital. Under his leadership, HPH has maintained financial stability and growth throughout his tenure. Besides consistently exceeding benchmarks in quality, safety and patient satisfaction, Mr. Sánchez successfully orchestrated the hospital's preparation for its accreditation survey by The Joint Commission three times. Moreover, the hospital was surveyed and successfully accredited by DNV•GL Healthcare in 2019 and 2020. A major \$7M renovation of the hospital was also completed in June 2020, which offers patients, visitors and employees a more vibrant and welcoming experience. Most recently, the hospital completed a major re-branding initiative in January 2021. Renaming the hospital, HUMBOLDT PARK HEALTH, to reflect the diverse and inclusive community it serves along with the tagline, "Advancing Health Equity" to emphasize the importance of this objective and HPH's renewed commitment to ensuring all members of the community have fair and just



opportunities to be as healthy as possible, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or zip code. In 2019, Mr. Sánchez was conferred his second Honorary Doctorate degree from St. George's University School of Medicine for his contributions to medicine, education and public health. In 2002, he was conferred an Honorary Doctorate degree from the New York College of Podiatric Medicine in recognition of his

immeasurable accomplishments and steadfast commitment to improving the health care outcomes for some of the poorest and most disadvantaged populations in New York City. Mr. Sánchez also proudly holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the City College of New York and a Master of Social Work from Adelphi University.



**DARSHAN THOMAS**

Kelvyn Darshan Thomas, known as DARSHAN with love, is 16 yrs. old & has been playing basketball since the age of 5. He is a student-athlete attending Fenwick High School in Oak Park, IL class of 2024, a rising Senior. Darshan currently plays



for the famous Ronnie Fields' Elite basketball team aau/travel club. Basketball is a sport which Darshan is passionate about & enjoys playing with his peers. He trains 5 to 6 times a week to better his skills and improve his speed and agility in this sport. Darshan has played for many teams during the last 10 years starting with Bensenville Park District & Bensenville Bombers, a DuPage County Youth Travel Basketball League. The teams which he has played with have won many championships locally & nationally and have been recognized for their victories. Along with Basketball, Darshan played Volleyball and enjoys Golf. He also plays Alto Saxophone which he learned during 5th thru 7th grade in middle school where he joined the school's music band. Math is one of his favorite subjects which he excels in along with Science, English & P.E. In February of 2023, Darshan was accepted in the National



Honor Society for his academic excellence. Darshan has played basketball since he was in kindergarten and has never stopped. He wishes & trains to better himself for the level required academically & athletically to play at a D1 collegiate level along with his current focus to

major in International Business Management. The top universities where he wishes to attend are Northwestern, University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin), Texas A&M University, Florida State University & Princeton. Darshan is a true definition of a student-athlete.





**SHAUNTA GRAY**  
Sandridge School District 17, Board Member, Lynwood, IL

A career Real Estate Broker/ Owner, licensed in IL & IN, Title Co. Owner/Agent, IL Licensed Appraiser Trainee, Investor, Inventor, IL/IN Continuing Education

Instructor, IL Licensed Notary and Former Radio Show Host, Elected School Board Member – Sandridge SD172, VP of Lynwood Chamber of Commerce, Newly Elected Director at Large for Illinois Association of School Board, Former Chair & Vice Chair of Affordable Housing Committee & Current Committee Member of Governmental Affairs for IL. Association of Realtors, 2024 Regional Director for The Appraisal Institute, Volunteer for Push Excel Oratorical Society, Wife, Mother of 4 Children, Licensed Ordained Minister, who has been living & talking about real estate and entrepreneurship for the past 23 yrs. One of her projects has added another title to her professional expertise - "Author". The book "Credit Secrets They Don't Want You to Know" is self-published & positively impacting people in all walks of life. Smart,



passionate, lively, fun, highly detailed, technologically savvy, proficient & thorough, Shaunta is considered a Serial Entrepreneur. Studying for the LSAT –in preparation for Law School 2024. Her businesses received

WBE, FBE, DBE, 8a and MBE certifications 2010-2017. Shaunta consistently facilitates homebuyer & seller education and credit education workshops meeting both buyers & sellers.



**MAHANTH MALLIKARJUNA**  
Founder & CEO, Mergen Corporate Pvt. Ltd, Telangana, India

Mahanth Mallikarjuna the visionary leader behind Mergen IT LLC and Adaptis LLC. As a serial entrepreneur, Mahanth has established himself

as a leader in the industry, with over 15 years of experience as a technology evangelist. Mahanth's strategic approach, entrepreneurial spirit, and experience have enabled many companies to expand their global footprints and deliver exceptional value to clients. He also co-founded JUIY.in which is an Electric Vehicle Market place for 2 and 3 wheelers. But Mahanth's contributions go beyond the corporate world. He firmly believes in giving back to the community and has made numerous selfless contributions over the years. Mahanth is actively involved in various activities, supporting education, healthcare, and social causes. He believes in empowering the less fortunate and has



dedicated his time, resources, in the financial services and and expertise to making a positive impact on society. Mahanth is a member of the Forbes Technology Council with 15 years of IT experience and has a proven record of success

staffing industries. He leverages his solid technical expertise and an innate ability to chart the right course of action to deliver optimal solutions to client challenges.



**KATELYN CHEN**  
CFO, 88 Market Place, Chicago, IL

Katelyn Chen studied at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and holds double majors in Accounting and Finance. While studying abroad in Tsinghua University, she volunteered in supporting education in underdeveloped

areas by teaching English class. During the past years, Katelyn continued to support the Asian community in Chicago Chinatown. She is actively involved in the Annual Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade, Annual Chinatown Summer Fair, Chicago Dragon Boat festival, Annual Moon Festival for Chicago Chinatown Special Events and Community Foundation, Not only with the goal to promote Asian culture to the community, but she supports international events, such as Sing China USA, which aims to support talented people to pursue their dreams. She coordinates the Asian American Heritage Month events and promotes Asian and Chinese culture in the city. With her dedication to the local community, she had the opportunity to serve on the Asia Advisory Council for the



Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulis. Katelyn started her community. With her education and professional experiences, she worked as an expat back in Shanghai and successfully positioned the company to break-even in that year. While she advanced her career in finance, Katelyn increased her

involvement in the Asian community. With her education and professional experiences, Katelyn Chen served as CFO in the largest Chinese grocery market in the city of Chicago, 88-marketplace. She also financially advises in a Chief Financial Advisory role for a local asset manager.





**DR. SURESH REDDY**

**Trustee -Village of Oak Brook, IL**

Dr. Reddy is the 36th President of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), the largest ethnic medical organization in the United States, representing the interests of over 120,000 physicians of Indian Origin, a Neuro-Interventional Radiologist by



profession. He currently serves as the Chief of Radiology at Hines Medical Center, Associate Professor of Radiology at Loyola Medical Center in Chicago and has had many years of service to the medical community and AAPI. His journey started at SUNY Stony Brook, NY and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center / Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, where he underwent his education. He served as faculty at the Harvard Medical School for over a decade. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Reddy contributed to the expansion of the AAPI organization, recruiting more than 10 sub-chapters as patron members, and streamlining the bylaws with several historic changes. He created the AAPI Endowment fund, which raised and donated \$300,000 to enable successors to focus on education, mentoring, research, charity, and service. Dr. Reddy facilitated more than a hundred webinars and health awareness events. He facilitated honoring more than 10,000 nurses



who worked selflessly in the line of duty against Covid in over 100 hospitals in over 40 states including Alaska. He led a campaign donating blankets to needy shelter-less citizens during last winter and would like to do the same this winter. He was additionally the 40th president of the Indian American Medical Association, Illinois Chapter and has orchestrated and performed several

projects to benefit the community through this organization. On the front of community service, he was elected Trustee for the Village of Oakbrook during a ceremony by Honorable Justice Ann Jorgensen, presiding Judge of the Appellate Court Second District in Illinois. Through his work to benefit the community, his focus is on civic engagement and community service.



**EJIRE DOLLARS A.K.A TAIWO FATAI**

My name is Taiwo Fatai. I was born in August 1974 in Obizi Nbase, Owerri, Imo State. However, I grew up at Ile Oba Tirejeoye, Oyan, Odo-



Otin Local Government, Osun State, in Nigeria. I have been singing locally since primary school which I completed around 1984. During high school, I explored other genres of music and graduated in 1994. I went into the line of business while also singing on the side. I then got married and had 3 kids. Later, I moved to the US and worked as a CNA while keeping up with my singing habit. I released my first album Current Affairs in 2021. I received an Award of Excellence from D Duke Music Entertainment for my contribution to the music industry in December 2022

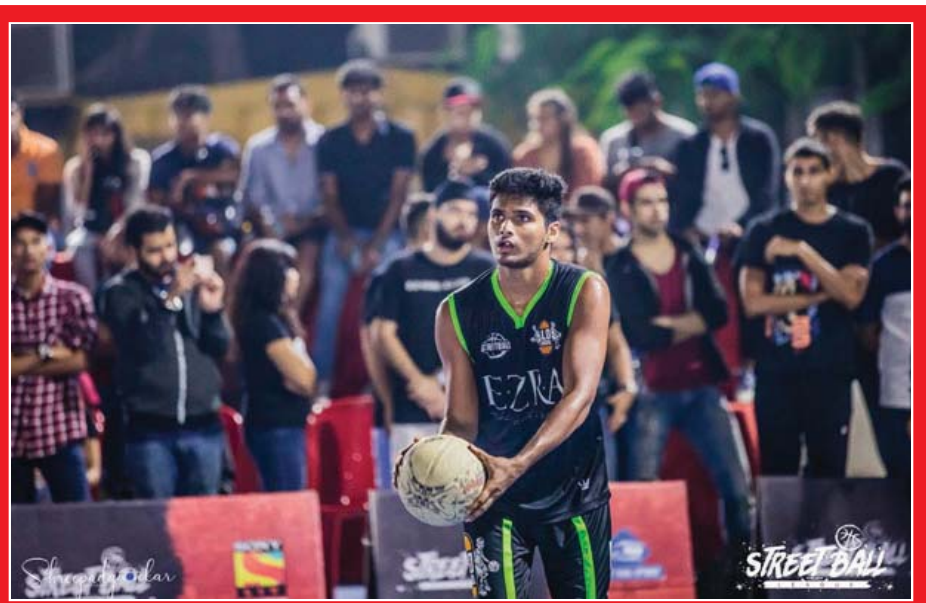


**ULHAS K. SATYANARAYANA**  
Delhi, India

Ulhas Koravi Satyanarayan is a professional basketball player from India. He was born on August 15, 1998. In terms of education, Ulhas completed his 10 + 2 CBSE Board in Commerce from GD Goenka Public School in New Delhi in 2015/2016. He then pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management



Entrepreneurship Honors from the University of Westminster in London, United Kingdom, from 2016 to 2019. In 2020/2021, he obtained a Master of Science in Innovation and Entrepreneurship online from Full Sail University in Florida, USA. Ulhas's main objective is to continuously train and play at a higher level as a professional basketball player. He is currently a member of the Senior Indian National Basketball Team and the first Indian to play professionally in Europe. Ulhas possesses skills in yoga and yoga training, organizing management and marketing workshops, as well as leadership and excellent communication abilities. He is fluent in English, Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu, and has achieved a score of 6.50 in the IELTS examination for English proficiency. Apart from his basketball career, Ulhas actively participates in teaching academics and basketball to underprivileged



students through an NGO. He also Westminster basketball team gives motivational talks to and winning their first physically challenged athletes as a form of unconditional service to society. Ulhas has received recognition certificates and authorizations for his extracurricular activities. Notable achievements for Ulhas include being the first Indian to become the captain of the University of

Westminster basketball team and winning their first championship. He is also the first Indian to play professional basketball in Europe and has brought home two medals in the National Division One in Europe. Additionally, Ulhas has represented India twice in the FIBA Asian World Cup Qualifiers in 2022-2023.





**SHERIFF JIM MENDRICK**

**Dupage County  
Wheaton, IL**

Sheriff Mendrick was hired in 1996 as a patrol deputy and rose through the ranks of corporal, sergeant, lieutenant, major, canine commander and administrative chief before being elected sheriff in November 2018. As a student at Lewis University, Mendrick studied criminal



justice and later completed the School of Police Staff & Command at Northwestern University. In 2019 Mendrick was elected co-chair of the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS). Under the leadership of Sheriff Mendrick, 36 neighboring police agencies united in August 2019 to form an unprecedented sharing of resources and manpower under the shield of the Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigation Team (MERIT). Since implementation, that team has responded to nearly 1000 emergency events throughout the county in a unified response that gives DuPage County greater law enforcement resources and quicker response times for large-scale incidents. In the DuPage County Correctional Facility, Sheriff Mendrick created a comprehensive continuum of care that transformed incarceration into a rehabilitative model versus the antiquated punitive model that existed in the past. Drug detoxification, drug recovery,



medicated assisted treatment, full psychological services, GED training, job training in the form of sanitation services, welding, tiling, indoor and outdoor horticulture, gang desistance, gang tattoo removal and 70 additional classes have all contributed to recidivism rates that have fallen into the teens. In 2022, the DuPage County

Correctional Facility received two separate national awards. The American Correctional Association scored the DuPage County Sheriff's Office at a clean 100% performance rate in every category, stating that DuPage was the national example of a rehabilitative process within a correctional facility.



**NITYA NAIR**

**Chicago, IL**

Nitya Nair is currently entering her sophomore year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she is double majoring in



Economics Political Science. Nitya graduated high school at the top 1% of her class. She is a James Scholar and Chancellors Scholar at the University of Illinois, where she received the Provost Scholarship, providing her with full tuition scholarship to the university. She has received academic awards, including qualifying for the state finals at the Illinois History Fair, the Social Science Department Award winner, a Maine Scholar, and is involved in many extracurricular activities. She has trained in Carnatic singing for eleven years, and is currently studying Hindustani music. She has performed in multiple languages including English, Hindi, Tamil,



Telugu, and Malayalam, in numerous events across the United States and

Canada. She has been performing at cultural events since the age of nine.



**ERIC PARKER**

**Respiratory Care  
Practitioner, Oak  
Park, IL**

Prophet E Lamar Parker, multitalented bold and courageous is the epitome of persistence and Hard work Eric began at a young age with insight and wisdom of a 20-year-old at the age of 12 ministering, preparing to become a ministry leader and community advocate he began my building, helping and aiding people in his community with information, knowledge, insight. he was the renaissance man, funny, charming, handsome, and



a loving soul after completing high school and going to the private school sector he began his career and business and management working with fortune 500 companies like chase, Starbucks and AT&T then transitioned over into a medical career with a bachelors degree in psychology from Grand Canyon University and also. Masters in physicians assistant, with emphasis on healthcare administration extensive training courses receiving his associates in respiratory care after a 8 year Long career Eric wanted to go back to what he love most, which is inspiring people in all shapes and sizes, socially economically financially professionally and spiritually he had a vision that everyone needed three things in life something to eat , somewhere to live, and to transition to God, so he started Africansoul Restaurant, int'l, that goes from state to state, performing African culture, with African cuisine, partnered with Funeral companies, Aiding lower income families who doesn't have insurance and can't bury their love ones to offer better more affordable options for funerals and memorials. He then also started an Airbnb business with locations in Florida, Vegas and Atlanta. Going into business for himself was not easy. Once the businesses became afloat instead of their own legs, Eric understood that you



also need financial literacy and partnered with several multi millionaires on how to gauge plan and prepare for wealth by doing, so he understood that this was an opportunity to preach God's word he continued under the teaching Bishop, Tony Bianchi, a world, renowned prophetic teacher, apostolic leader, who has taught him the spiritual basis of seeking the kingdom and all of its righteousness and everything will be added onto you. He has began this 17 year journey of ministry, business, faith, and marriage has no plans of slowing down Prophet E Lamar, Parker ministries

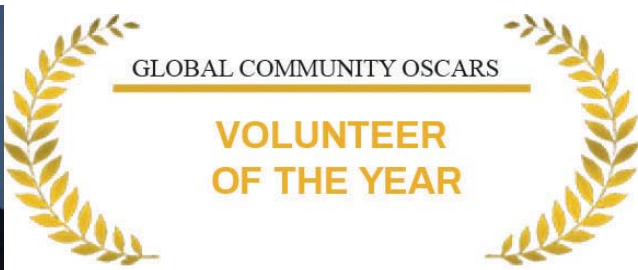
under the umbrella of Bethel Mennonite community church. Has major plans for the next generation believers business owners in the faith, men of valor and couples he and his wife, Connie Parker has plans on helping the next generation with dating , seeking God to see the right one starting a iron sharpens iron foundation where it will service groups of Married couples to support in faith marriage and also God has graced them to take African Soul, his businesses and his faith to glory to glory please help us present the award for interfaith business leader of the year Dr E Lamar Parker.





**DR. AFROZ HAFEEZ**  
Founder Chairman,  
Soniz Group

Dr. Afroz Hafeez, a well-rounded healthcare and community leader in the Chicagoland area. I work for Duly Health & Care (formerly Dupage Medical Group) as the Director of Quality Improvement and Musculoskeletal (MSK) Program Development, MSK Institute. The MSK institute (orthopedics, spine, podiatry, pain, physiatry, chiropractor, rheumatology, neurology,



PT / OT) is multi-disciplinary and there are a variety of initiatives that I am involved in service of leadership, improved care, and patient outcomes. These include: Development of quality department, improving patient outcomes, quality improvement projects, research and studies, outcomes research, improving patient care, education, patient engagement platforms, data and analysis, reporting, outcomes monitoring and improvement, creating standards, policy development, development of peer review process, establishing quality committee and teams, system patient safety committee, leading teams and workgroups, leading care management, coding education, project management, strategic planning, process / performance improvement. In addition to a career within healthcare, I currently serve as a Commissioner for the Village of Arlington Heights. There are a number of multiple national and community organizations I have been involved with such as the American Cancer Society (ACS), American Association of Physicians of Indian Organizations (AAPI), American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), Chicago Health Executives Forum (CHEF),



Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) - Chicago, American Medical Students Assoc (AMSA), Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH), and others. There has been significant advocacy I have been involved with in relation to healthcare issues and policies work (increase research funding, closing disparities, further access, etc.) including lobbying at the U.S. Capitol in DC, at the IL State, etc. Among these, I have also interacted with Congressman Danny Davis on supporting the bills. There is COVID related work I have been involved with inclusive of monitoring cases at the hospital, leading a large contact tracing team and investigating variant cases at the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH), and increasing communication on encouraging vaccination through the This is Our Shot (TIOS) national campaign



**DION HARDEN**  
CEO, You Break it  
You Fix it Foundation,  
Chicago

Dione was born and brought up in a drug-infested environment in the south side of Chicago, where he and his two elder sisters lived in Englewood in the south side of Chicago. You all know that



Englewood has a life expectancy of 60 years while seven miles away from the streets, the life expectancy is 90 years and the crime rate is 86%. With that in mind this young man when he was 14 years old took to dealing and drugs at that young age and by 23 he was one of the top drug dealers earning a whopping amount of \$15,000 a day selling drugs, dealing with drugs and selling guns. Seven years of prime time when he was given in by one of his closest buddies and that landed him in the federal penitentiary where he spent 13 long years, out of the first five years, this young man experienced the torment in any prison anywhere in the world. To quote him, it was like being in the belly of the beast, but the next seven years was of transformational experience where he was groomed by mentors, where he thought he learnt, he read, he



got his GED degree and today he has become an amazing trendsetter, life changer and a change maker has the founder and CEO of You Break It You Fix It Foundation, a federally recognized 501-c-3 not-for-profit, which is changing the landscape of Chicago when it pertains to preventing violence. Providing food for the hungry and providing hope for the suffering. Now in his own words, he tells us when he was young, he was destroying the community, but today he's taking initiative to try to fix the community that he broke.

**SCIENCE OF SPIRITUALITY**  
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Science of Spirituality is a nonprofit organization, with 2,800 centers worldwide, dedicated to providing a forum where people can learn meditation for its benefits of physical, mental, and emotional health, spiritual growth, finding one's purpose in life, discovering the inner treasures and enjoying inner spiritual experiences leading to the peace, happiness, and bliss from realizing their soul and their connection to the Divine. What makes

Science of Spirituality special is that people can learn how to meditate from a world renowned spiritual Master—or guide—and author, Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj, who himself has mastered the inner spiritual journey and wants to share the bliss, joy and happiness within us. He gives help and guidance in meditation so one can experiment and test for one's self the transformative benefits of meditation for their body, mind, and soul. He is author of numerous books, articles, and blogs, sharing this practical method of meditation, including his book, Meditation as Medication for the Soul. His programs have been broadcast on television and radio as well as on the Internet. His work in the field of science, computers, and communication has given him the ability to have a scientific approach to spirituality. He makes the science of spirituality and meditation easy for people to understand and practice for themselves. He holds







meditation seminars, gives public lectures, and hosts international conferences, presenting his powerful yet simple meditation to millions throughout the world. His life has been one continuous thread of service to humanity to bring about a world of peace and spiritual upliftment.



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# GLIMPSES OF THE SPECTACULAR 12TH ANNUAL DR VGP GLOBAL COMMUNITY OSCARS 2023





# GLIMPSES OF THE HISTORIC 12TH ANNUAL DR VGP GLOBAL COMMUNITY OSCARS 2023





# Recent Arrest in Tamil Nadu: Examining Criticisms of Communism's Alleged Authoritarian Rule

**Ananthan Ayyaswamy**

The recent arrest of a non-communist leader in Tamil Nadu has ignited debates and criticisms regarding the alleged dictatorship and authoritarian rule associated with communism. This incident has drawn attention to the broader global critique of communism as a political ideology. In this news item, we will delve into the specifics of the arrest and explore the criticisms leveled against communism on a global level.

**The Arrest:**

The arrest in Tamil Nadu involved a India's ruling party's Tamil Nadu Unit's State Secretary SG Suryah who is known for expressing dissenting views against the ruling political party of his state the DMK. It is important to note that SG Suryah was recently invited by State Department of US Govt. as an IVLP Fellow and visited USA for 32 days in February and March 2023. SG Suryah was detained on 16th June, 2023 on charges that have raised concerns about the curtailment of freedom of speech and the use of state power to silence political opposition. While the circumstances surrounding the arrest require thorough investigation, it has become a focal point for critics to question the nature of communism and its potential for authoritarianism.

**Global Criticisms:**

The arrest in Tamil Nadu is not an isolated incident but is seen as part of a larger pattern of alleged authoritarian rule under communism. Critics argue that the history of certain communist regimes, such as the Soviet Union under Stalin or China under Mao, demonstrates a deviation from the core principles of communism, resulting in authoritarianism and the suppression of



individual freedoms. These regimes have faced global condemnation for human rights abuses, limited political freedoms, and economic inefficiencies and hence this is a main point why THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is against communism and doesn't tolerate the communism in its soil .

**Authoritarianism and Freedom of Speech:**

One of the key criticisms against communism is the curtailment of freedom of speech, particularly when it comes to political dissent. The arrest of the non-communist leader SG Suryah in Chennai, Tamil Nadu is seen by critics as an example of how communism, in practice, can lead to the silencing of opposition voices. By controlling the narrative and suppressing political dissent, critics argue that communism can create an environment where freedom of speech is limited or completely

claim to be communist. While communism, in theory, advocates for equality and social justice, its implementation has often fallen short of these ideals. This distinction is important to understand when discussing the global opposition to communism, as it is primarily based on the actions of specific regimes rather than the ideology itself.

**Conclusion:**

The recent arrest of a non-communist leader SG Suryah in India has reignited discussions and criticisms of communism's alleged authoritarian rule. Global concerns about the curtailment of freedom of speech and political freedoms have contributed to the ongoing critique of communism as a political ideology. It is essential to



absent.

**The Importance of Differentiation:**

It is crucial to differentiate between the ideology of communism itself and the actions of specific governments that

distinguish between the ideology and the actions of specific regimes to have a nuanced understanding of the criticisms directed towards communism.

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# HIGHLIGHTS FROM PM MODI'S VISIT TO France AND UAE



## BIG HONOUR FOR PM MODI AT BASTILLE DAY PARADE!

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended Bastille Day Parade as Guest of Honour at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of France, on the Champs-Élysées on 14 July 2023. To mark the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership, tri-service Indian armed forces contingent led by a military band also participated in the Parade.

Proud Moment! India's tri-services contingent march past during the Bastille Day Parade

Must See! Elevating India-France friendship to the next level

## COMMUNITY CONNECT IN PARIS AMID CHANTS OF "MODI-MODI"

PM Modi interacted with the Indian diaspora in France. He highlighted the multi-faceted linkages between India and France. He appreciated the role of Indian community in bolstering the ties between both the countries. The PM also mentioned the strides being made by India in different domains and invited the diaspora members to explore opportunities of investing in India.



## WONDERFUL MEETINGS WITH PROMINENT FRENCH PERSONALITIES

PM Modi interacted with prominent French personalities including Chanel CEO, Ms. Leena Nair, Mr. Thomas Pesquet, a French aerospace engineer and European Space Agency astronaut and Ms. Charlotte Chopin, a renowned Yoga teacher.

## PM MODI CONFERRED WITH THE HIGHEST FRENCH HONOUR!

PM Modi was conferred with the prestigious 'Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour,' France's highest award by President Macron. He thanked President Macron on behalf of 140 crore Indians and said that he will always cherish this visit to France.



## PM MODI MEETS PRESIDENT MACRON, CHARTING THE 'HORIZON: 2047'!

PM Modi held tête-à-tête and delegation level talks with H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of the Republic of France at the Elysee Palace in Paris. Both leaders held extensive discussions on wide range of areas of bilateral cooperation. Ambitious outcome documents, including "Horizon 2047: Charting the future of India-France Strategic Partnership", were adopted.



## PM MODI MEETS PRESIDENT AND RULER OF UAE, FORGING NEW PARTNERSHIPS!

PM Modi met Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and the Ruler of Abu Dhabi over delegation level and one-on-one talks in Abu Dhabi. The two leaders held wide ranging discussions covering various dimensions of the bilateral partnership, including trade & investment, fintech, energy, renewables and climate action among others.



## INDIA-UAE JOINT STATEMENT, SCRIPTING NEW HEIGHTS TOGETHER!

PM Modi and President of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a framework to promote the use of local currencies (INR-AED) for cross-border transactions by Governors of the respective Central Banks and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for planning to establish Indian Institute of Technology – Delhi in Abu Dhabi.

Energising India-France friendship | Day 1 of PM Modi's Paris visit



## PM MODI MEETS PM OF FRANCE, ENHANCING MULTIFACETED COOPERATION!

PM Modi met Ms. Elisabeth Borne, PM of France. The leaders discussed furthering cooperation in various areas such as economic and trade, energy, environment, education, mobility, railways, digital public infrastructure, museology and people to people ties.



## DEEPENING DEMOCRACY AS PM MODI MEETS WITH PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF FRANCE

PM Modi met Ms. Yaël Braun-Pivet, President of the French National Assembly and the senior leadership of the Assembly, over lunch at her official residence, Hotel de Lassay in Paris. The two leaders highlighted the shared values of democracy, liberty, equality and fraternity. They discussed ways to further increase cooperation between the two Parliaments.



## PM MODI ADDRESSES COMMUNITY PROGRAM IN PARIS, FRANCE





*Shree &*



*Seeta's Chatter*

*A photo feature on Community's happenings....*



Oscar Award Winning Lyricist Sri Chandra Bose was felicitated by Chicago Telugu Community members on June 11th, at Mall of India.

Naveenchandra Karna, AMEC Executive Director hosted a Surprise birthday dinner for Dr Ajit Pant, Chairman of GSA India @75 Expo USA at Shikara Restaurant, Downers Grove, Illinois on July 12. Neil Khot, IABC USA National Chair, Dr. VGP, Robert York, Director Gandhi King Center for Non-Violence, Shivam Viswanathan, Executive Director GSA India @75 Expo USA, Dr. Vasavi Chakka, Dean, Global Eye International Institute For Leadership, Seeta Bala, GSA India @75 Expo USA Awards Jury Chair, Sudhakar Chakka, IIT Alumni USA, Chenna Kesavulu, CEO, GSA India @75 Expo USA and Dr. Pant's cousins from Delhi Yogesh & Asha joined the celebrations.



Deepali Kar at the launch of the First Chhattisgarhi Language App by NACHA.



Prophet Apostle Rev Dr. Paulson Raj Sangala, Founder, Society For Christ, Warrangal, Telangana, India blessed the U. S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy at his office in Capitol Hill, Washington D.C. today June 21. Prophet Rev Dr. Paulson built Asia's largest Church in Karunapuram, Warangal

Dr. Vijay Prabhakar, the Founder Chairman and the entire American Multi Ethnic Coalition Team present the intricately crafted flower bouquets to Ann Smith, Naperville Events and Mike Tjarda, Facilities Manager of The Yellow Box, Naperville to show their appreciation for their unwavering support, hard work and dedication to successfully conduct the 12th Community Oscars.



U. S. House Speaker Kevin Mc Carthy welcomed Dr Vijay G. Prabhakar, Indian American Leader popularly known as Dr VGP to Capitol Hill today June 21 afternoon. Congressman Jonathan Jackson welcomed India P. M. Modi.



Successful launch of the First Chhattisgarhi Language App in Raipur Chhattisgarh by North America Chhattisgarh Association (NACHA).



Subash George and Vijay Muralidharan rehearsing for the familiar foot-tapping, Oscar-winning song "Naatu Naatu." Their meticulous preparation efforts were commendable.





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