

# LEAD LIKE A GIRL

By ROSHNI HANNON roshni.hannon@gmail.com

What does it mean to do something "like a girl?" More importantly when did that become an insult? The truth is that women hold 52 percent of all the professional jobs in this country, BUT we are substantially underrepresented in leadership roles. Is it the glass ceiling? Is it the fear of failure, family matters, perhaps an inferiority complex? I tend to think we are guilty of holding ourselves back from the top with self-imposed barriers. Women can only break through these barriers by helping themselves and each other. The Working Women of Tampa Bay (www.workingwomenoftampabay.com) and the Indo-US Chamber collaborated for the first time to host an event, appropriately titled "Lead Like a Girl." Four panelists engaged an audience of more than 60 women, and two



Carole Sanek from the Crazy Marketing Ladies interview Jasmine Anand for their podcast: www.thecrazymarketingladiesshow.com PHOTO BY: Elegant Exposures Photography (www.elegantexposuresinc.com)

Jasmine Anand is an Indian fashion designer and owner of Jasmine's Designs, and Anu Vohra is the owner of the Indian restaurant, Desi by Nature.

I had the honor of moderating along with the WWOTB CEO, Jessica Rivelli. We asked the ladies an array of questions: how do they identify themselves, as a mom, a working mom, a business owner? The overwhelming response was that a woman in today's world does not limit



Panelists from left to right: Anu Vohra, Mary Key, Jasmine Anand, Renee Dabbs PHOTO BY: Elegant Exposures Photography (www.elegantexposuresinc.com)

her wardrobe to one hat. We reserve the right to wear several at any one time! The sooner this generation of leaders embrace multi-tasking the sooner women will stop standing in their own way. It is ok to be a mom who runs a successful business. It is ok to be a woman at the top of her game who finds time to run marathons and write books and not have children. Stop doubting and start doing. Be a mentor, nudge someone in the right direction, but more importantly be there to catch them if they fall.

I have to back up and explain. This panel discussion was more than a three-hour lunch for a bunch of network-hungry women, and two men. This was a vision that started in my traditional Indian kitchen when I watched my mother cook and stay home while my physician father worked 15 hour days. I thought Dad was in charge. I was wrong. Mom was in charge but she did it quietly and gracefully. That was her leadership style. Maybe it was cultural. Whatever it was, it was effective. There is not a one-size fits all when it comes to leadership. It is about embracing our cultural differences and showing gratitude. At the end of the day, whether you rock a sari or a suit we are all cut from the same cloth when it comes to weaving the path to success. So go ahead. Lead like a girl.

## Banyan Ball 2015 Award nominations

Individuals shall be recognized for their hard work, contributions and efforts to the Indo-US Community or are of Indian descent working in the state of Florida. The Awards are presented based on the categories listed below:

- Businessman of the Year
- Not-Profit/ Social/Community Awareness
- Businesswoman of the Year
- Professional Under 35

Mail their submissions to: Indo-US Chamber of Commerce, 10006 Cross Creek Blvd #444, Tampa, FL 33647 or www.indo-us.org

### Sponsorship Opportunities

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DEALS	PRICE
2 Ticket deal - 2 tickets and 1/4 page ad	\$650
Table deal - table and full page ad	\$2,250
2 Table deal - 2 tables and full page ad PLUS special feature of logo on screen banner	\$4,500
Beverage Sponsor - 2 tickets and 1/4 page ad, plus logo on screen banner and Corporate banner on Drinks Station. Four available.	\$2,500

## BANYAN BALL 2015

September 26, 2015

6:30 pm

THE HILTON, DOWNTOWN TAMPA



Ticket prices: Table \$2,000 • Single \$225  
For sponsorship: please call 813 841 9216

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Anu Vohra, owner Desi by Nature

## MEET ANU VOHRA

Anu Vohra is the owner of Desi by Nature, an Indian restaurant in the heart of Tampa. She received her BS from Rutgers University in New Jersey before eventually moving on to the corporate life in New York City. She spent the past 15 years working for large corporations, most recently Societe Generale Corporate & Investment Banking in midtown Manhattan. In 2014, Anu and her husband decided to travel to India to spend time with his family. It was the perfect timing since their kids were young (1 and 2 at the time) and they could still manage to travel around with them. They spent 6 months traveling throughout India before they relocated to Tampa, a kid-friendly city with a growing economy and many opportunities. Once they settled in, Anu came to realize that she wanted nothing more than to spend

more time with her children and enjoy the toddler years with them, yet still achieve her professional goals.

It was then that they decided to open Desi by Nature. Having the "working woman" mentality and her husband's business background, they knew they were the perfect team to make this venture successful. She spends most of her afternoons at the restaurant, and evenings with her children. And if she can manage to find some free time, she likes to volunteer and get involved with the Children's Heart Foundation, an organization that supports and raises awareness for Congenital Heart Disease.

Desi by Nature is at 1251 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, 33612

Check www.facebook.com/Dbntampa

## The Indo-US Chamber of Commerce held its JULY NETWORKING SOCIAL AT CASK SOCIAL KITCHEN

on Howard Avenue in Tampa.



## Upcoming Indo-US Chamber Event:

Panel discussion on Indian Non-Profits

Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2015

Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Location: HCI Ballroom  
5300 W. Cypress St., Tampa, 33607

This is a FREE event. No RSVP required.

### Banyan Ball

Date: Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015

Location: Downtown Hilton,  
211 N. Tampa St., Tampa

Emcee is Fox 13 anchor Jennifer Epstein. Sponsorship details are available at www.indo-us.org/2015-banyan-ball

## INDO-US CHAMBER MISSION

"To provide an active forum in which Asian American professionals and business owners, through an exchange of ideas, with a unified voice, can communicate, interact, and secure a position within the business industry and become a source of inspiration by promoting professionalism and excellence through education and community involvement."

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