EDITOR'S NOTE

BY SURAJ NAYEE, EDITOR@INDO-US.ORG

The Indo-US Chamber of Commerce is excited to re-launch our monthly community outreach efforts in conjunction with Khassbaat to better inform and connect with our members.

To those readers less familiar, Indo-US is founded on the principle that one learns the most from those who share similar experiences. As such, we provide an open forum for Asian American professionals and business owners to exchange business ideas, obtain referrals, and in general gain access to a dynamic network of peers.

Membership in our organization is FREE and we promote the interests of our members hailing from diverse backgrounds, including: small businesses, large corporations, professionals, and entrepreneurs.

We invite you to make valuable connections by attending our monthly business networking meetings held at the Wyndham Tampa Westshore on the third Wednesday of every month starting at 6:30pm.

Please visit www.indo-us.org or send an email to **members@indo-us.org** to become a member and learn more about the organization's lasting impact within the local Tampa Bay community.

As a recap of our activities, here are select highlights and achievements over the past year:

- **Monthly business networking event featuring former City of Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio,** who spoke at length about the transportation referendum for a proposed major regional mass transit system. Other topics and panel discussions at our meetings have covered issues such as: *"Borrowing Money in Today's Credit Maze", "Speed Networking", "The Lean MBA: Practical Entrepreneurship Lessons",* and *"Immigration-Related Issues for Business".*
- **9th Annual Golf Tournament,** held at the Eagles Golf Course in Odessa and attended by a field of 120 golfers.
- **India International Film Festival (IIFF)** hosted at the Channelside Cinemas aimed at promoting awareness of Indian cinema and culture in the Tampa Bay community. The three-day festival featured more than 20 films, features, and documentaries from throughout India and the world, complete with filmmaker Q&A sessions and an opening night V.I.P. reception.
- An exclusive **V.I.P. Diwali Reception** at Tampa Museum of Photography to acknowledge and thank our sponsors and partners for their infallible support towards the mission and growth of the Chamber.
- Participation in the **23rd India Festival**, an annual staple of the local community and one of the most popular Indian cultural events in the U.S.
- The Chamber's marquee black-tie event, the **Banyan Ball**, was once again a sold-out affair featuring a keynote address from Mr. Rocky Patel, founder and CEO of *Rocky Patel Premium Cigar Company.*
- **Strengthened ties and alliances** with partners in the Asian American Chamber of Commerce (AACC), the International Business Summit (IBS), and numerous others outside of the Indian-American business community.

WELCOME MESSAGE

BY PARESH PATEL, CHAIRMAN, INDO US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Welcome to the launch of the new Khaasbaat Business Beat, a joint publication of the Khaasbaat and the Indo-US Chamber of Commerce. The Indo-US Chamber of Commerce was formed years ago by a group of successful business leaders of Indian origin. The Chamber's basic mission, among other things, is to promote professionalism and excellence and to help its members achieve greater success through outreach, networking, and education.

In supporting that mission, the Chamber has never charged a membership fee. Our meetings and other gatherings are funded through the kind donations of our sponsors and select fundraising events. The Chamber's executive committee, made up of volunteers, works to keep expenses low. All that the Chamber asks of its members is "as you benefit today, help someone tomorrow."

I have personally benefited from my participation in the Chamber. The relationships I have developed here over the past 10 years have been essential to my business ventures. I now find myself as the Chamber's Chairman. I will do my best to build upon the success of my predecessors with the hope that others will benefit as I have.

Please note there is an article in this magazine about being a bone marrow donor. I signed up last Sunday at the BAPS Mandir. It was easy and painless and I encourage you to try it yourself. If you are a match for someone in need, there will be a simple outpatient procedure. More important you will have contributed to saving someone's life. How many opportunities do you get to save a life? And, this opportunity costs you nothing----like the Indo-US Chamber of Commerce.

So please get involved. Join the Indo-US Chamber of Commerce and also participate in the bone marrow registry.

Paresh Patel is the Founder, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman of the Board of Homeowners Choice, Inc., a NASADAQ-listed insurance holding company located in Tampa. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of First Home Bank, a community bank located in Pinellas County, and is a Founder of NorthStar Bank, located in Tampa.

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RECAP: AUGUST MONTHLY BUSINESS NETWORKING MEETING

Last month, our business networking meeting was sponsored by Centre Club and held at their exquisite private business setting; a haven for influential business professionals and community leaders. Our guest presenter was Debbie Lundberg, a nationally recognized speaker, author, and principal of Debbie Lundberg Life and Business Coaching, who addressed a packed room about "Presenting Powerfully".

For those that missed Debbie's lively presentation, here are her Top 10 Tips for Presenting Powerfully (in reverse order):

10. Believe in yourself so that others can follow suit.
9. Wow them with your words, and compel them with your actions.
8. Get over yourself!
7. Treat others how they want to be treated.
6. Know your "difference" and live your truth.
5. Invest in yourself.
4. Your first impression does not begin when you see someone, rather it begins when they see you!
3. Be congruent.
2. Appropriately promise and appropriately deliver.
1. Know that you are the only person responsible your own happiness!

As an added bonus for our members, please visit www.DebbieLundberg.com and use discount code INDOUS811 for a 45-minute session to develop your Powerfully Presented "30 Second Pitch" for networking.

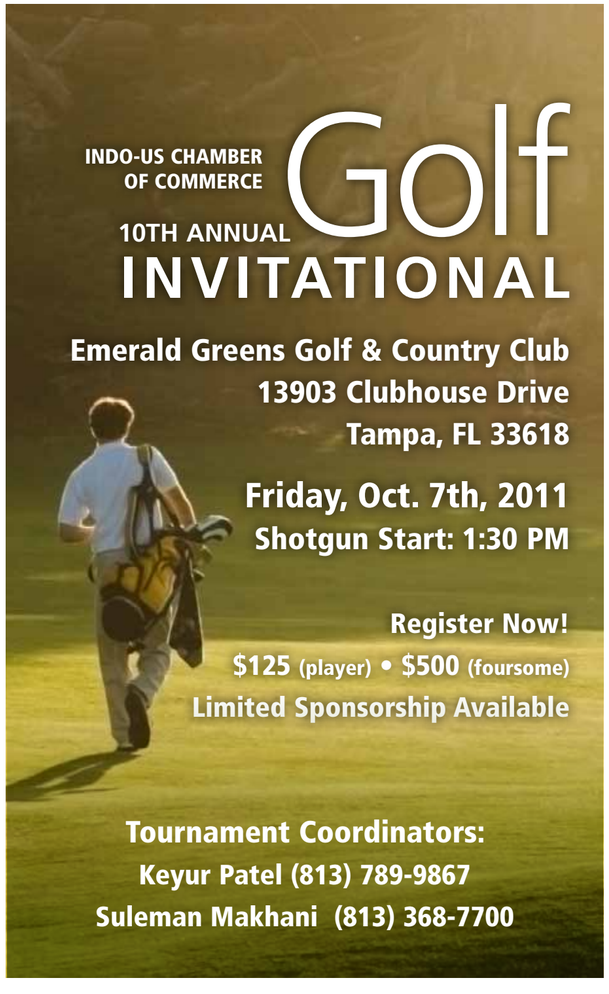
INDO-US CHAMBER MISSION

"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."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Business and Networking Event, in conjunction with the Asian American Chambers of Commerce (AACC)
Date: Wednesday September 21st, 2011
Time: 6:30pm onwards
Location: MainSail Conference Center (5108 Eisenhower Blvd, Tampa, FL 33634)
This is a FREE event. No RSVP required.

10th Annual Golf Invitational
Date: Friday October 7th, 2011
Time: 1:30pm shotgun start
Location: Emerald Greens Golf & Country Club (13903 Clubhouse Drive, Tampa, FL 33618)



RECAP: INDO-US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 2011 BANYAN BALL

The Indo-US Chamber of Commerce — a business networking organization that brings together professionals from within the Tampa Bay area — successfully hosted its 12th annual gala event, the Banyan Ball, on June 4th, 2011. The elegant black-tie signature affair was held at A La Carte Event Pavilion and drew over 300 attendees, including numerous business and civic dignitaries from the local community.

Mr. Rocky Patel, founder and CEO of Rocky Patel Premium Cigar Company, which manufactures and distributes over 20 million premium cigars across the globe, served as the evening's keynote speaker. Mr. Patel delivered a riveting and well received account of his success story; from his initial career as a prominent entertainment lawyer in Los Angeles, CA, to his cigar production facilities located in Honduras and Nicaragua, and the recent launch of a premium cigar lounge in Naples, FL.

As is tradition with the Banyan Ball, awards were presented in the following categories:
- Community Service Person of the Year: Dr. Raghavendra R. Vijayanagar
- Businessman of the Year: Dr. A.K. Desai

The event was further highlighted by performances from an east/west musical fusion ensemble and Bollywood-themed dance entertainment was provided by Gator Adaa, Radhika Mehrotra, and Sonia Kallarakal.

The Banyan Ball also served as a backdrop for the Indo-US Chamber to announce its new leadership team for the upcoming year, to be stewarded by Mr. Suleman Makhani (President) and Mr. Paresh Patel (Chairman of the Board).

To view pictures from the event, please visit: http://shriphoto.smugmug.com/%20Events/Indo-US-2011-Banyan-Ball