

Asian-American Foundation Celebrates Heritage Month

BY VEENA RAO

Atlanta, GA: The Asian American Heritage Foundation held its annual gala dinner and fundraiser at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta on May



Kiran Ahuja and Ani Agnihotri (center) with the young performers.

22nd. The gala is held in the month of May every year to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage month. Guests associated with at least 16 member organizations graced the event. Kiran Ahuja, executive director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, was the keynote speaker.

In her keynote address, Ahuja recounted her struggles growing up brown in Savannah, Georgia at a time when there were very few Indian immigrants there. "I felt like I was the only one; that I

didn't fit in. I wanted to change my name," she said, adding, "Being brown in Savannah helped me navigate two worlds- white and black."

Ahuja said her own struggles motivated her towards a career in public service.

"Asian Americans have the highest rate of suicide, especially after 9/11," she said. "If we don't talk about the problems in our community, nobody is going to realize something is wrong."

"The President has a strong commitment to serve our communities, she added.

Ahuja also spoke about the community's significant representation in the federal government.

She urged the younger generation to serve in the federal government.

"The federal government will be hiring 100,000 people in the next two years," she said. "It is our job to see that our government looks like us."

Earlier in the evening, Farooq Soomro, president of the foundation, in his report said, "We continue to fulfill the aims of the founding members." He said, this year, the foundation also wanted to reach out to community organizations and support them. Another mission was to start a

scholarship for students, he added.

Ani Agnihotri, foundation chairperson, welcomed the guests and dignitaries and thanked the corporate sponsors and member associations.

"The dinner is an opportunity for the Asian-American community to come together to recognize the historical contributions of people of Asian and Pacific Heritage. We also use the dinner as an opportunity to raise money for worth-

while Georgian community projects in the areas of health, education, civil rights, charities and a community center," Agnihotri was quoted as saying, in the event brochure.

Entertainment included a Thai invocation dance and dances by the young students of China Tree and the Atlanta Asian Culture and Arts Center.

Christopher J. Horace of the Coca-Cola Company was the host for the evening.

Banganapalli Mangoes Now Available In Atlanta

Atlanta, GA: Good news for mango lovers. Sweet, luscious banganapalli mangoes, straight from the farms of Andhra Pradesh, are now available in Atlanta stores.

"We work directly with the growers of the mangoes and were finally able to get our first consignment of Banganapalli mangoes in recently for the Atlanta community," said Davinder Sawhney of Accent Fusion LLC, a startup company based in Atlanta that imports temperature managed produce.

"We have been researching mango transportation and storage and began our efforts to get alphonsons, kesar and banganapallis imported directly into Atlanta from India early this year," he said, adding, "We plan to take on the daunting task and fill the holes currently present in fresh produce market and make Indian fruits accessible anywhere in US."

The company has also designed a model to ship the mangoes to any retail store in USA. "We put the mangoes in specially designed cooler boxes which are generally used in pharmaceutical shipping to keep

the temperature for the mangoes ideal for transportation," said Sawhney. "We have shipped as far as California. We have partnered with state of the art perishable goods cooler warehouse facility to give us the ideal 55 deg temperature for the mangoes.

Banganapalli mangoes, also spelt baiganpalli or beganpalli, are large sized, weighing on an average 350-400 grams. The pulp is fibreless, firm and yellow with a very sweet taste.

The response for the first consignment has been tremendous, says Sawhney.

"We are almost sold out in no time. The response from the Andhra community and others of southern Indian heritage has been great. Our first shipment delivery in North Carolina was greeted by a group of mangoites at 10.30 pm. They were waiting at the retail store to get a glimpse of the produce from their motherland."

The kind of fruit is currently sold by the box of 4kg each, each averaging 8-10 mangoes, based on sizes.



MARIETTA

490 Franklin Road, SE
Marietta, GA 30067

NW-North of Cobb Galleria
(I-75 Exit 263-West 120 Loop)

Phone: 770-422-8000

Fax: 770-428-4050

Haveli

"Atlanta's Favorite"-A tradition in fine Indian dining
Since 1985

Recipient of Finest Awards and Articles

Atlanta Magazine, New York Times, Hudspeth Report, Marcellino's Guide,
WAGA-TV, Atlanta Journal, Creative Loafing, Zagat Guide, CNN News and WXIA-TV

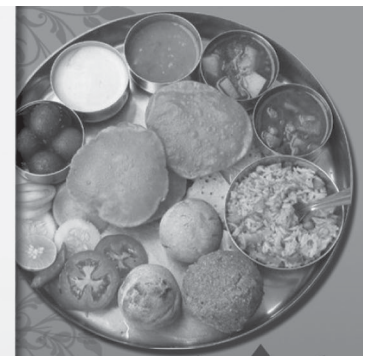
20% Discount!

Offer expires 06/30/10

Vegetarian & Non Vegetarian
Lunch: Buffet 7 days a week
Dinner: Menu, Beer, Wine & Liquor

www.haveliindiancuisines.com

Free delivery with min \$50 order. Call for details.



New
Location
NOW OPEN!

ALPHARETTA

North & South Indian Food

8465 Holcomb Bridge Rd.,

#4001

Alpharetta, GA 30022

Phone: 770-558-8333

Cell: 770-845-1488

**OUTDOOR
CATERING**
Live Dosa &
Tandoor Station

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • PARTY • BANQUET • CATERING • TAKE OUT AVAILABLE