



Ladlee Introduces Designer Range

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Ladlee, the fashion boutique that has dressed thousands of Atlantans in the past five years from its location at Global Mall, recently launched its designer range with collections from top-notch Indian designers Manish Malhotra and Neeta Lulla. The prêt collection is very affordable and within the range of everybody who desires to be dressed in a Manish Malhotra

or Neeta Lulla. The Manish Malhotra range also includes men's wear.

"People in Atlanta are very fashion conscious," says owner Hayal. "They are way ahead of people in India as far as fashion goes. I have customers who come in asking for specific dresses worn by popular characters of TV serials."

"We stay updated with the latest fashion trends," he adds. "Our inventory is updated every three months."

Ladlee, which has three locations in Atlanta and several in India, opened a second store at the Global Mall (across its primary location) eight months back to cater to men and children. "We have several bridal parties coming to shop here," explains Hayal. "While there are several options for brides and other women, there is not one single store in Atlanta that exclusively caters to grooms, men and children. Our men's and children's store fills this void."

Hayal is very happy with the business the mall has generated for his store. "Ladlee benefits from the heavy traffic at Global Mall, especially because of the ongoing cultural events organized by owner Mr Shiv Aggarwal," he says. "Also, we do not have the kind of competition that stores in places like Chicago and New Jersey have."

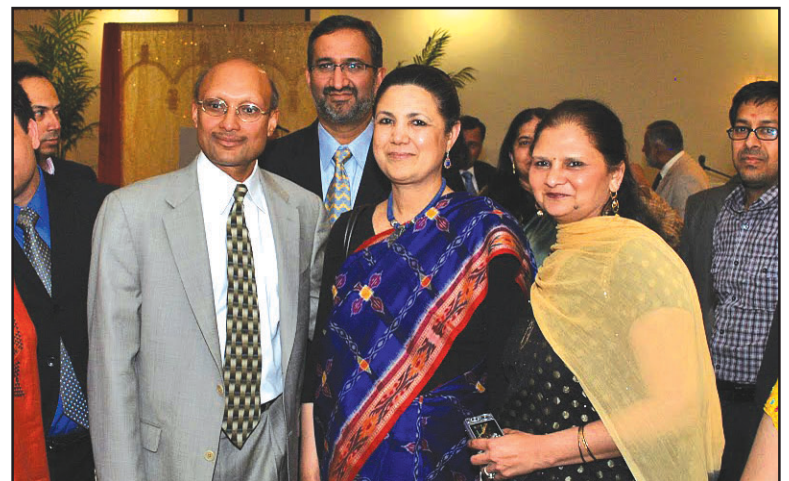
Ultimately, it is the quality and affordable prices of our clothes and



accessories that draw people to Ladlee, he adds. So much so that Ladlee has loyal customers from other southeastern states like Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Florida.

For those who prefer to shop online, Ladlee also has a website, www.ladlee.com, where a wide range of inventory is sold online. Customers on a bargain hunt can avail of coupons by visiting www.ladlee.com and subscribing to get on their mailing list.

Ambassador Shankar Hosted at Global Mall



A diverse cross-section of Indian-American communities representing over sixty diverse ethnic, religious and cultural Associations of Georgia gave a red carpet welcome to India Ambassador H.E. Meera Shankar and her husband Hon. Ajay Shankar on their maiden visit to Georgia. Consul General of India Hon. Sanjiv Arora and Vice Consul Azad accompanied them to the glitzy banquet at the Ashiana Restaurant on April 30. The Banquet showcased over 250 who's who of the Indian American Community at the festive and beautifully decorated Ashiana Banquet Hall at the Global Mall.

U.S. Congressman John Lewis; SCLC President and daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Elder Bernice King; Sandy Springs Mayor Eva Galambos; National Center for Civil and

Human Rights, Executive Director, Doug Shipman; Georgia State Senator Curt Thompson and numerous dignitaries ordained the list of distinguished guests and electrified the banquet reception with their august presence.

CEO of Global Mall, entrepreneur and philanthropist, Shiv Agarwal in his welcome address said he felt overwhelmed that the Ambassador and Ajay Shankar had graced the Global Mall with their presence and thanked all the dignitaries for attending this reception at such a short notice.

The reception for Ambassador Shankar at Ashiana proved that the Global Mall is today not just a community hub, but also the nerve center that represents the Atlanta Indian community to the world at large.

(Complete report by Mahadev Desai on the Front Page and City News Pages.)

Global Paan House: A Musician's Nook

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Visitors frequenting the eateries at the Global Mall are familiar with the tall, kurta clad, pig tailed figure of Ali Asani who runs a paan stall at the kiosk near the food court. Asani is an interesting person. An accomplished musician, he runs the paan kiosk only to stay connected with the public.

"When I first met Mr Aggarwal and proposed the idea of taking a kiosk for a paan shop, he got up and excitedly said: 'That's exactly what we need!'" says Asani. "For me, this is an opportunity to be with people. People know me here as Ali bhai. Even if I am away from the kiosk, customers feel comfortable enough to pick up a paan and leave a dollar." That's the kind of rapport he has built



with customers.

Global Paan House caters paan for parties, weddings, birthdays and other happy occasions. Asani insists that his paans are fresher and priced much lower than at other places in Atlanta. His little kiosk has arrays of paan ingredients and suparis and other little things that visitors to the food court would possibly need; like watch batteries, phone cards, candy etc.

There are rows of pictures put up on display at the kiosk, of Asani performing with several celebrities from Pakistan and India.

Asani has been in the field of music for the past 48 years. Originally from Iran, he has roots in Pakistan (his mother was from there), and has lived in the Middle East as well. He speaks at least five different languages including Gujarati, Sindhi, Punjabi, Urdu and English. A skilful vocalist, Asani also plays the keyboard, harmonium and the flute. He has been doing mehfil and ghazal shows around the US, and has been accompanying renowned singers like Munni Begum and Naila Mughal at their US concerts. His next big performance will be in Detroit for a fundraiser with Shabana Azmi, Javed Akhtar, Kader Khan and Munni Begum. Asani also teaches music and provides harmonium lessons to budding Atlanta musicians.