

Team IAALV

IAALV Executive Committee 2017

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Asst Program Directors: Joya Baruah;

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Cindy Sookram, Dharam Sookram

Coordinator Road Clean-Up: Balakrishna Rao

Coordinator AESP & Youth Adv.: Nitin Laud; Youth Creative Dir.: Mrunalini Govande

Youth Coordinators: Sailee Rane; Shaumik Phadke

Editorial Board Youth: Priyanka Bhashyam; Aryaman Khandelwal

Photographer: Sampath Govindasamy

Ex-Officio: Aparna Bharath

IAALV Board 2017-18

Chair: Ashim Bhowmick; Secretary: Bharat Bhatt

Members: Radha Devani, General; Supriyo Dey, Programming Support; Sandeep Dhareashwar, Community Relations; Arvind Mathur, Investments; Sudhakar Neti, Constitution; C.D. Pandya, Auditor & City Relations, Deepak Sharma, Legal Matters; Arun Kumar, Ex Officio Member

"It has been an honor to be associated with this persevering, selfless, talented Team IAALV and in my humble opinion this Organization will be one of the most talked about Indian American Organizations in the US - for its inclusiveness, its achievements and its services."

- Basabi Basu, IAALV Editor 2014-15

IAALV MISSION

- "TO BE AN ORGANIZATION THAT BEST MEETS THE INDIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY'S NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS THROUGH VARIOUS CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS.
- TO APPROPRIATELY PASS ON THE HERITAGE TO OUR CHILDREN AND PREPARE OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS WELL TO BECOME GOOD CITIZENS OF THIS ADOPTED COUNTRY OF OURS.
- TO DEVELOP AND EXECUTE APPROPRIATE ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES THAT ENABLES US AS WELL AS OUR CHILDREN TO DEVELOP A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF OURSELVES AND AS WELL AS OTHERS; RESPECT FOR OTHER CULTURES; AND AN OVERALL APPRECIATION OF THE PHYSICAL, NATURAL, SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE.
- TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH VARIOUS ETHNIC ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IN GENERAL INCLUDING THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS AND THE MEDIA.
- TO DISPLAY THE INDIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY'S GENUINE CONCERN ABOUT THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH THEY LIVE."



Indian-American Association of Lehigh Valley

A non-profit, tax exempt organization: Tax ID# 23-2159173
PA Bureau of Corporations & Charitable Organizations Entity # 651358
P. O. Box 3575, Allentown, PA 18106-0575

www.iaalv.org

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2017 (12NOON - 2:00PM)
JETPORT BALLROOM AT DAYS HOTEL, AIRPORT ROAD, ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SPECIAL EVENT AND PRESS CONFERENCE

WITH

**HONORABLE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

OUR GOAL:

WE WANT TO OVERCOME FEAR AND ANXIETY WITH CONTINUED DISCUSSION WITH VARIOUS GOVERNMENT BODIES SO THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF OUR CONCERNS AND CONTRIBUTIONS. WE ASPIRE TO BE THE CATALYST FOR REVERSING THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENT OF INTOLERANCE INTO ACCEPTANCE FOR ALL REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION AND PROCLIVITIES THROUGH BETTER HUMAN RELATIONS AND MULTICULTURAL UNDERSTANDING.

**Organized & Presented By
INDIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LEHIGH VALLEY (IAALV)**

Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2017

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Good afternoon and thank you all for coming!

We are honored to have your presence. We welcome all our eminent speakers and guests.

We are gathered here today to discuss the safety of our streets, schools, and to help Indian-Americans and the community at large in the Lehigh Valley navigate through these trying times. We want to create an environment of harmony and unequivocal acceptance by reversing the current atmosphere of intolerance plaguing this nation today.

Indian-American Association of Lehigh Valley (IAALV) initiatives to voice our concerns on recent hateful bigotry (apparently increased incidences are being seen around this nation which we so lovingly adopted) and to ensure each one of us is relevant and safe, resulted in overwhelming support from elected officials. Today's event is with Honorable Attorney General of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Josh Shapiro who has kindly agreed to hold this special event and press conference.

Founded in 1972, the IAALV obtained non-profit status in 1991. IAALV serving and representing over 7,000 Indian-Americans in the greater Lehigh Valley region is integral to maintaining cultural, educational, social and community service for not only our own members but for the community at large. In early nineties, we morphed from an organization that only served its own community to one that actively interacts with other ethnic and non-ethnic organizations of the Lehigh Valley. In 1996 we changed our name from India Association of Lehigh Valley (IALV) to IAALV. IAALV represents and serves as an Umbrella Organization for over 7,000 people of Indian origin of greater Lehigh Valley. We strongly believe that our activities add value to the entire community irrespective of their affiliations or faith thus making each one of us a beneficiary of our efforts.

IAALV has informal alliances with all organizations serving Indian-Americans of the greater Lehigh Valley to undertake projects of common interest. We have invited them to be a part of today's meeting.

Of course, Indian Americans are not alone in suffering a recent spate of hate and violence. African-Americans, Latino-Americans, Asian-Americans, Jewish-Americans, Muslim-Americans and members of the LGBTQ community, to name a few, have also been attacked and vilified.

Although, we are concerned about the current atmosphere of intolerance that is plaguing our country today, we also acknowledge that there are good Samaritans in this country of ours. Mr. Ian Grillot was wounded with bullets while trying to stop a gunman who shot at two Indians resulting in one fatality in Olathe KS shooting on Feb 22 of this year. We know this country is very welcoming and has given us opportunities. It is comforting that most people are welcoming and are good Samaritans in the country that we adopted.

We are happy that you have made the time to attend this significant event and share your feelings and experiences, which will help you be a part of the solution and an integral part of mainstream America.

- All the best!
- Ashim Bhowmick,
- IAALV Board Chair, 2017-18
- Winner of 2003 Allentown Human Relations Award
- Proposer of Lehigh Valley Multicultural Center in 1991-92

IAALV Has Formally and Cordially Invited

Organizations:

Hindu Temple Society (HTS), Allentown, PA; Allentown Jain Sangh (part of HTS), Allentown, PA; Muslim Association of Lehigh Valley, Whitehall, PA; Guru Nanak Sikh Society of Lehigh Valley, Nazareth, PA; Easton Phillipsburg Muslim Association, Easton, PA; VHP of Lehigh Valley, PA; American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, LV; Gurdwara Sikh Sadh Sangat of Easton, PA; AIM for Seva, Saylorsburg, PA; Anoopam Mission, Coply, PA; Al-Ahad Islamic Center – SIJPA, Allentown, PA; Indian-American Seniors Group, Allentown, PA; Allentown Multicultural Center, PA (Forming); Allentown Human Relations Commission, Allentown, PA

Media:

The Morning Call; WFMZ 69 News; Express Times/Lehigh Valley Live; RCN; and Desi Talk/India Abroad

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen:

Since the early nineties when we refocused ourselves with a new name, IAALV started offering varieties of programs to balance our activities between the Indian-American Community and the Community at Large. Through a series of programs, Team IAALV is on its way to connect Lehigh Valley Indian Diaspora with local organizations and people.

In addition to a repertoire of yearly activities, several public-spirited efforts are being considered consistent with larger IAALV Mission. These services include revival of food services for the homeless, volunteering at habitat for humanity, participating in 5K run for Girls on the Run for Allentown School District, Healthy Food Fest sponsored by St Luke's Hospital and expanding the Adult Education Initiative to Student Tutoring and Prison Inmates Mentoring Program.

IAALV is making sure our youth are active in Lehigh Valley community. We offered a youth conference to prepare our youths to have a better understanding of the world that they live in.

We have become a part of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and adopted a highway intersection in 2014 and we clean the intersection twice a year.

Our new initiative, we have taken an important step on Jan 20, 2017, on behalf of over 7000 Lehigh Valley Indian-Americans to make them relevant and a part of the local fabric which will stand in history. We took an important step forward (consistent with our mission and our 1991 proposal to City of Allentown) to be a part of multicultural center a project dear to Hon. Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski. Our future lies on how well we assimilate and pursue good human relations in this adopted country of ours are indeed quid pro quo for gaining better future of our second generation and generations that will follow.

Thank You.
Arun Kumar, IAALV President 2017

Special Event & Press Conference with Hon AG of PA Josh Shapiro

Light Lunch: 12noon to 12:20PM
Event & Press Conference: 12:30PM to 2:00PM

Our Eminent Guest Speakers: Honorable AG of PA Josh Shapiro, Exec Deputy AG of PA Robert Reed, Senior Deputy Attorney General Pearl Kim, and Neil Makhija, Esq will speak about how he was treated in a recent rally.

The Panel of Eminent Guests Expected To Attend: Honorable Lehigh County DA James Martin, Northampton County DA John Morganeli, PA Senators Lisa Boscola & Pat Browne, and Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski.

AGENDA

Moderator: Prof. Sudhakar Neti, IAALV Board Member, 2017-18

- Welcome: Ashim Bhowmick, IAALV Board Chair, 2017-18
- IAALV Programs & Initiatives: Arun Kumar, IAALV President, 2017
- Recent Incidence: Neil Makhija, Esq
- Remarks: Deepak Sharma, Esq, IAALV Board Member 2017-18
- Hon Attorney General of PA Josh Shapiro: Introduced by Deepak Sharma, Esq.
Question and Answer
- Hon Exec Deputy Atty General of PA Robert K. Reed: Introduced by Deepak Sharma
- Hon Senior Deputy Atty General of PA Pearl Kim: Introduced by Deepak Sharma
Question and Answer
- Closing Remarks: Prof. Sudhakar Neti

A BIG Thank You to Everyone for Attending!