

Silicon Valley Awards Honor Bay Area Achievers at Gala

[Cont. from page B1]

create enough awareness and support that we can change the laws on H4 visa and help the thousands of people who are affected by it," Shah told **India-West**.

"I am still an attorney practicing full-time but I am also an active advocate for human rights, especially immigration rights. I started with short advertisement to raise awareness, then a documentary to ultimately turn to a full feature film, 'Shattered Freedom'. Then we made the 'Immigration Interview', 'The Immigration Fraud Interview', 'The Lost Dream', and now 'H4 Visa - A Curse'," he said. "The idea behind these movies is that it is easier to reach out to people through entertainment rather than using the usual ways of speech and petitions. So far it has worked."

Ankit Shah from Inter Sources Inc., the fast-growing Fremont-headquartered firm, received the award amidst thunderous applause. Shah's supporters cheered the firm's achievement saying the company had truly leveraged technology to bring efficiency and innovation to the recruitment space.

Another popular winner was Narika. The Narika team said domestic abuse is a real threat to women in the Bay Area and it is good to see people accept and recognize the scale and extent of how much it affects families in our communities.

The eight winners were chosen by public vote and by an independent panel of judges that included Vish Mishra, venture capitalist; Diana Rohini Lavigne, San Francisco Bay Area chair of the South Asian Journalists Association; Preston Merchant, photojournalist and author; Tamiko Wong, executive director of the Oakland Asian Cultural Center; Omesh Sharma, CFO at various venture-backed companies; and Anil Yadav, president of JIB Management Inc. The judges scored the 40-plus entrees and tallied the public vote into their final score.

"It was quite an exciting process. The nominees were great – a very diverse and talented group who have made such an impact on our communities – it made it very tough to pick any one or two winners but I am glad we are finally able to choose these most deserving winners," commented Wong.

"I am just so excited to be amidst such dedicated and innovative people," added fellow judge Mishra.

The Silicon Valley Awards are organized by Sheetal Ohri, who runs a PR, communications and event management firm. The Indian American has been a successful professional and has served on the boards of several Bay Area nonprofits. The single mother,

who was hailed by the judges and attendees alike as a champion contributor to the community, said the awards reflect the spirit and uniqueness of Silicon Valley.

"These awards are all about the people who live in Silicon Valley and who make a difference in one way or another to help the valley grow and become a better and richer place, culturally and professionally. We want to recognize these individuals, companies, nonprofits who epitomize the Sili-

[Cont. on page B6]



Jaspreet Oberoi from Chaat & Curries (holding the award) won in the Entrepreneurship category. (Jason Lee Photography)

Invest for Your Immediate Future

Introducing "Your Choice" Investments!

Money Market Account

1.00%_{APY*}

12 Month CD

1.15%_{APY*}

*Available For Consumers and Small Business Customers

Why HAB?

- ✓ High Yield
- ✓ FDIC Insured
- ✓ Guaranteed Return
- ✓ Peace of Mind



HAB BANK

110 East 9th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90079
Tel: (213) 362-1200

18357 Pioneer Blvd.
Artesia, CA 90701
Tel: (562) 924-7500

*CD & Money Market Account offers require a qualifying consumer or business checking account and a minimum deposit of \$5,000. No Brokered Deposits will be accepted. Penalty for early withdrawal. The annual Percentage Yield (APY) shown is effective as of 4/18/13 and is available at an HAB branch only. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. Other terms and conditions apply.



HAB BANK is a Service Mark of Habib American Bank

www.habbank.com

