

# MARCH NETWORKING EVENT RECAP: "An Evening with the Mayor"

By ROSHNI HANNON roshni.hannon@gmail.com



St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman

A few weeks ago he won the St. Pete Grand Prix Mayoral Go-Kart Challenge. All joking aside, St. Pete Mayor Rick Kriseman has been on a bit of a winning streak. His Pier Selection committee is one step closer to determining the future of the historic structure, and after facing a setback with the Rays, Kriseman is working the phones again, hoping to push through a fresh deal he has reached with the team to let the team look at different stadium sites. The Mayor crossed over to the other side of the bay to spend the evening as the Indo-US Chamber's guest speaker last month. It was by far the most well-attended Chamber event in the organization's history.

The Mayor also talked transportation. Kriseman says he's disappointed in last year's mass transit referendum failure, he said he wants ongoing, citywide projects to increase St. Pete's appeal. He wants the city to be more desirable for pedestrians and cyclists. He's also pushing for a high-speed ferry to ease travel between Tampa and St. Pete. A potential solution, Kriseman said, is his work lobbying Tallahassee through the Urban Partnership coalition of major Florida mayors. Kriseman is hoping to get more taxing authority for cities.



The Mayor also addressed Tampa Bay's interest in Cuba. He explained that while St. Pete might not have the same cultural ties as Tampa, his city's relationship with Cuba is just as important. Kriseman a close relationship with Cuba's government could lessen the impact should there ever be an oil-drilling crisis in the Gulf like in 2010.

It's clear that Kriseman's vision for the future of St. Pete is bright and that he plans to stand strong with Indian business leaders to make those visions a reality and build a city of opportunity.

Mayor Kriseman brings an incredible amount of experience and passion to St. Pete. He was elected into office in 2014. He was appointed to St. Pete's City Council in 2000 and during that time served on numerous committees. He ran for the Florida House of Representatives in 2006 and was re-elected in 2008 and 2010. His colleagues rewarded his leadership and work ethic by naming him their Policy Chair for 2011-12.

Roshni Hannon is the VP of Communications for INDO-US.

## "FORE" A CAUSE

The 13th annual Indo-US Golf tournament was a swinging success. Hundreds participated in this year's event. It was held at the West Chase Golf and Country Club under practically perfect weather conditions. The event was emceed by Fox 13's morning meteorologist Dave Osterberg. The tournament is one of two annual fundraisers held by the Indo-US Chamber which is one of the only non-profit chambers in the



Tampa Bay area. Former Tampa Bay Buccaneer Shelton Quarles, Rowdies Goalie Winston DuBose and former Fox 13 anchor Frank Robertson were also in attendance. A special thanks to gold sponsor Valspar and silver sponsor Centennial Bank.

## Asian-American Chambers of Commerce

www.aacctampabay.org

cordially invites you to:

### 'Perspectives on the Economy on the Restaurant Industry'



PANELISTS:

- ▶ Maryann Ferenc, CEO, Mise en Place Hospitality, Inc.
- ▶ Blake Casper, Chairman, Caspers Company
- ▶ Scott Pierce, CFO, Frontburner Brands
- ▶ Alexis Muellner, Editor, Tampa Bay Business Journal

Wednesday, April 15, 2015  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

RSVP: WWW.AACCTAMPABAY.ORG  
HCI Headquarters  
5300 W. Cypress St., Tampa FL 33607



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Amit D. Patel, For Man of the Year

## MEET AMIT D. PATEL



Amit D. Patel, Financial Representative at Northwestern Mutual is proud to announce his candidacy for the Man of the Year campaign for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to help raise money to find a cure for blood cancer. Amit is currently seeking motivated individuals to assist with his campaign and help him win the Man of the Year title for the 2015 Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

How you can help:

- Become a team member for his campaign
  - Purchase a table or tickets to the Grand Finale Gala at the Hilton Downtown Tampa on May 16th, 2015
  - Provide items for the silent auction at the Grand Finale Gala
  - Make a donation to his campaign at [www.mwoy.org/pages/sun/sun15/apatel](http://www.mwoy.org/pages/sun/sun15/apatel)
- Please let him know how you are able to help. Contact Amit at 813-767-2005 or by e-mail at [adpatel2195@gmail.com](mailto:adpatel2195@gmail.com)

## Give Day Tampa Bay 2015 TO PROMOTE CHARITABLE GIVING

Give a click and help a charity. Give Day Tampa Bay is around the corner. The 24-hour online event raises money for hundreds of Bay area charities. It's presented by the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay and the Florida Next Foundation. "Nonprofits

help Tampa Bay be a vibrant, resilient community, a place that people want to come to, want to belong to, and want to invest in," said Marlene Spalten, President of the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. "Give Day Tampa Bay encourages everyone to give."

### Started or starting a new Business?

If you have started a new business or planning to start one, chamber events are perfect places to share experiences and learn from others. Indo-US chamber events and the relationships built there provides access to entrepreneurs, seasoned and successful business people, and an open forum for you to discuss your ideas, expand on them and to collaborate. The events are free and so is the membership. We urge you to come out and be a part of it. Together, the future is ours.

Giving is easy. All it takes is a couple of clicks on your smartphone, tablet or computer. One of the goals this year is to increase mobile giving. "We want to capitalize on the rise of crowd-funding campaigns," said Ned Pope, President of the Florida NEXT Foundation. "We want to make giving to a cause you're passionate about as impulsive and easy as downloading a song on iTunes." The inaugural event in 2014 raised \$1.09 million for the 385 participating charities. "As a small non-profit, we were blown away by how Give Day Tampa Bay helped us last year," said Kerri Kibbey, a founding board member of High Risk Hope, a Tampa-based nonprofit. "We raised \$15,000 and nearly half of our donors were new to us. Give Day Tampa Bay gave us a platform to show who we are, and what we do." Nonprofits that want to participate must submit an application by April 10, 2015. Give Day Tampa Bay is on May 5th.

For more information or to register, go to [GiveDayTampaBay.org](http://GiveDayTampaBay.org). Follow on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GiveDayTampaBay](http://www.facebook.com/GiveDayTampaBay) or on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/GiveDayTampaBay](http://www.twitter.com/GiveDayTampaBay).



## Upcoming Indo-US Chamber Events:

### Business & Networking Event

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2015  
Time: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
Location: HCI Ballroom, 5300 W. Cypress St, Tampa FL 33607  
Presentation: Perspectives on the Economy on the Restaurant Industry  
This is a FREE event. No RSVP required.

### "The Right Preschool"

Behind the Scenes from an Industry Insider  
**Book Launch & Open House Event**  
Date: Sunday, April 12, 2015  
Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Location: Lutz Learning Center 621 Sunset Lane, Lutz FL 33549  
Presentation: Meet and greet with the Author Kimberly Wilson  
This is a FREE event.

## 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."

## INDO-US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jal Irani, President

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Shaun Amarnani   | Aakash Patel       |
| Rajesh Attal     | Amit Patel         |
| Kamlesh C. Darji | Vatsal Patel       |
| Jigish Desai     | Lakshmi Sastry     |
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