

April 2015

SAYA! South Asian Youth Action

OFF TO COLLEGE

[Learn Where SAYA! Youth Are Headed](#)



Based on the college acceptances received so far, the 2015-2016 academic year promises to be an exciting one for SAYA! youth. Selena will be attending Smith College as a Posse Scholar in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Tasnim is off to Yale University as a Questbridge Scholar intending to be a pre-med Biology major. Both were actively involved in college readiness and leadership activities at SAYA!'s Elmhurst Center and enthusiastic participants at the Desi Girls Citywide Conference 2014. Other SAYA! youth have been accepted to Brooklyn College, The City College of New York, Drew University, Queens College, Stony Brook University and the University of Buffalo.

FUNDING COLLEGE

[SAYA!'s College Scholarship Fund Gets Underway](#)

SAYA!'s first ever College Scholarship Fund, a direct result of the live pledge at last year's Annual Gala, will start off this year by awarding four SAYA! youth \$5,000 a year scholarships through all four years of college. The Fund aims to alleviate some of the financial burden of college costs for South Asian youth enrolled in SAYA! programs.

SAYA! LEADERSHIP

[Meet Our New Board Chair and Vice Chair](#)

Rasika Reddy succeeds Usha Saxena as Chair of SAYA!'s Board of Directors and Shibasheesh "Shib" Chakraborty succeeds Pappudu "Pop" Sriram as Vice Chair. A practicing artist, Rasika has been a member of SAYA!'s Board for three years

and co-chaired two very successful Annual Galas, in 2011 and 2012 respectively. She has also served on the Fundraising, Program and Board Development Committees. Shib is currently Director, Corporate Strategy & Development at Alcatel-Lucent. Since joining the Board in 2013, he has been on the Finance and HR Committees. Shib's contributions also include guiding SAYA! through a strategic planning process.

ANNUAL GALA

Save the Date:

Saturday, September 26, 2015

Join us for SAYA!'s Annual Gala 2015 on Saturday, September 26, 2015. We promise you a fun night where we honor MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga and his wife Ritu Banga, co-founder of Zoomdojo, as well as actor Kunal Nayyar, otherwise known as Dr. Raj Koothrappali in the CBS sitcom, *The Big Bang Theory*.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

[Celebrated Filmmaker at Newcomers High School](#)



On Monday, March 9, 2015, Mohammed Naqvi talked to SAYA! youth at Newcomers High School about his path to becoming a critically acclaimed filmmaker. He co-directed the documentary, [Among the Believers](#), which premieres at the TriBeCa Film Festival this year. Naqvi received the Grand Jury Prize at the United Nations Association Film Festival in 2014.

[Zoomdojo Comes to SAYA!](#)



Founded by Ritu Banga and Carol Rattray, [Zoomdojo](#) offers online resources for students and young professionals that facilitates their career search. Zoomdojo partnered up with SAYA! recently to conduct three career-related workshops with our youth.

[SAYA! Celebrates Bangladesh Independence Day at City Hall](#)



On March 16, 2015, five of our PS 230 youth participants performed a fusion dance piece at City Hall during a Bangladesh Independence Day celebration organized by several New York City Council Members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Desi Young Men's Society Skill-Building Day:](#)

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Approximately 40 young men will travel to The Adventure Park, an aerial forest ropes park in Long Island. Youth will develop teamwork skills by learning to

support one another and build self-confidence by utilizing their own strategy, balance, and strength in order to complete various climbing and zip lining obstacles.

Desi Young Women's Leadership Conference 2015:

Saturday, April 25, 2015*

Approximately 100 young women will unite for our annual leadership conference, which focuses on encouraging, educating and empowering our youth. This year's conference goal is to connect youth to extraordinary women who have forged their own unique paths in life and found a balance between pursuing their dreams and being practical with their choices.

Career Fair 2015:

Saturday, May 16, 2015*

At our 7th annual Career Fair, approximately 100 youth will meet with panelists from companies and organizations representing various academic and professional fields. Through our Career Fair, as well as events throughout the year, we aim to broaden the realm of career paths and possibilities for our youth.

**If you wish to volunteer at these or other SAYA! events, please email fatima.malik@saya.org*

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South Asian Youth Action (SAYA!) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1996 and committed to serving the needs of low-income South Asian youth in New York City through tailored programming that offers academic support, leadership development and enrichment opportunities. SAYA! is the only secular organization nationwide that directly and comprehensively addresses the critical needs of South Asian youth.