

## UNITY DINNER 2004

Indo-American Community Federation, kick-off, Unity Dinner 2004 You are invited to join us for dinner on Wednesday, December 10 starting at 7:30 p.m. at our home in Fremont Vineyard hills. Fremont City Manager Jan Perkins, Deputy City Manager Dave Millican, and Neighborhood Resource Manager Claudia Albano will meet to talk with us about the health of our Fremont community including the current economic climate and the challenges ahead. It will prove to be an interesting, and enlightening evening. This will also kick-off our Unity Dinner 2004 (unity in Diversity), third annual event of Indo-American Community Federation, to be held on Friday, January 23, 2004 in Fremont Marriott.

In the aftermath of 9/11, I was deeply disturbed like so many of us. I was not sure how the events were going to impact various groups living in an area as diverse as California. However, we were very pleasantly surprised to see the calm and dignity that was demonstrated by our fellow Americans.

This led to a happy dream to celebrate our diversity and consequently, invited our fellow citizens to come together for a unity dinner at the Newark-Fremont Hilton on January 25, 2002 on behalf of the Indo-American Community Federation.

Just within one month's announcement, 370 people came together and I could see the burning desire within the community to recognize our diversity. This gave me courage to make this an annual event and we just celebrated our second annual event at the Fremont Marriott. It was a sold out event filling Marriott to more than its maximum capacity with 510 strong community members, elected officials with our first lady as the chief guest. Due to the current world events, all of us are feeling various emotions. We also hold many different opinions about those events. At this time, it is very important to remember that one of the State's greatest assets is its diversity. It is equally important to respect the ideas and opinions of others.

The Indo-American Community Federation is a non-profit public benefit corporation that I founded in 1994. The initial purpose was to showcase Indian culture to mainstream America; promote understanding of issues and positive relations through seminars and conventions; provide financial assistance to needy and deserving individuals, educational institutions, homeless shelters, victims of domestic violence and child abuse and other forms of social welfare.

Our focus has now shifted toward taking this additional banner of maintaining and enhancing the unity and harmony within our State while celebrating our diversity. Therefore, we are getting ready for our third annual event "Unity Dinner 2004" at the Fremont Marriott on Friday, January 23, 2004. The event has grown considerably and we need the help of leaders like you to put the event together and guide us in the right direction. You are invited to join us for dinner on December 10 starting at 7:30 p.m. at our home in Fremont Vineyard hills to hear the City Manager about the health of our Fremont community and Kick-off the Unity dinner 2004 event Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

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