

NATIONAL INDO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS INC.

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PRESS RELEASE

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The National Indo-American Association for Senior Citizens (NIAASC) held its twenty first conference on seniors on Saturday, June 11, 2011 at the Indian American Kerala Center in Elmont, New York. The conference was conducted in collaboration with the National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA) and the Indian American Kerala Cultural and Civic Center (Kerala Center). The conference was sponsored by New York Psychiatry and Cognitive Care and five nonprofit organizations. Twenty individuals also sponsored the conference. President of NFIA, **Mr. Lal Motwani**, and Kerala Center Board Chairman, **Mr. Gopalan Nair**, welcomed the participants along with the NIAASC President, Mr. **Rajeshwar Prasad**. The conference coordinator was **Mrs. Avinash Suri**, NIAASC Board member and former President of India Association of Long Island.

The conference subject was "Housing Choices for Seniors" and the Keynote speaker was **Ms. Leslie Joy Larson** who is affiliated with new York Life and member of National Aging in Place Council and Senior Umbrella Network. She provided a broad picture of various components of senior housing from Independent Living to Nursing Homes.

Her presentation was followed by a panel presentation moderated by **Mr. P. Ramaswamy Mohan**, NIAASC Secretary, on three components of senior housing: *Living in a Retirement Housing* led by **Dr. Samir K. Dutta**, former Vice President of NIAASC and former President of Association of Indians in America (AIA); *Assisted Living* led by **Dr. Vasundhara Kalasapudi**, Vice President of NIAASC and Founder President of India Home Inc.; and *Home Share* by Mr. Rajeshwar Prasad. Almost 50 participants joined in a long interactive discussion on different components of the presentations. Dr. Dutta elaborated how NIAASC efforts resulted in the first Retirement housing complex (Shanti Niketan) in Tavares, Florida with the leadership of **Mr. Iggy Ignatius**, Founder of Bharat Vilas, a nonprofit organization. He further stated that despite the dismal real estate market all the 54 condos were sold because of the services the project provides or intends to provide such as Indian vegetarian and non-vegetarian food, meditation and yoga, Indian movies, community club, Internet support. Dr. Kalasapudi elaborated on Assisted Living and chalked out plan as to how India Home is planning to provide such services to Indian Americans in collaboration with current facilities in New York area. Mr. Prasad elaborated the relatively new concept of Home Share where a senior home owner can spare a bedroom to a home seeker (tenant) at a reduced rent coupled with help in house chores such as shoveling snow, grocery shopping and taking senior to doctor's appointment. He further elaborated on benefits and downsides of this arrangement. The program, Prasad indicated, is run nationwide under various entities through Home Share coordinators governed by the Fair Housing Laws.

The program started with south Indian breakfast and sumptuous Indian lunch catered by Usha Foods. All the sponsors were recognized for their financial support by **Mr. Satpal Malhotra** who also proposed a vote of thanks, not only to sponsors, speakers and guests but also to **Sampurna Jain** and **Chandubhai Patel**, both NIAASC Board members for arranging lunch

Submitted by

Rajeshwar Prasad
NIAASC President
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