

Mr. & Ms. VEGETARIAN PAGEANT

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Vegetarian Vision, a not for profit organization registered in the State of New York since 1992, organized the very first intercollegiate, tri-state Mr. & Ms. Vegetarian Pageant on September 14, 2013 at the Maguire Theatre SUNY OLD Westbury in Long Island, NY. This pageant was organized with the goal of promoting vegetarian way of life amongst our young upcoming generation, under the strong leadership of Founder & Chairman Mr. Harshad K. Shah. Animesh Goenka (President), Flora Parekh (Pageant Chair & Jt. Secretary), Mr. Vinod Shah (Pageant Co-Chair & Secretary) and Mr. Naveen Shah (Pageant Advisor & Incoming President) honored the winners - Mr. Vegetarian Harshil Parekh, Ms. Vegetarian Pamela Osborn Popp, Mr. Vegetarian runner up Meghav parikh and Ms. Vegetarian runner up Teena Sukhwal.

More than 40 talented contestants between the age group of 18 and 26, representing over 20 different colleges from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut shared their thoughts on vegetarian way of life and exhibited exquisite talent.

The entire pageant was well organized under the strong leadership & direction of Pageant chair Flora Parekh with an efficient pageant committee including Cultural Chair - renowned singer & performer Varsha Joshi, Youth Chair Nivea Kothari, Public Relations chair Paresh Parekh, Sound Engineer Sunil Joshi and several other volunteers. A beautiful souvenir, extra ordinarily designed and facilitated by Mrs. Beena Kothari, was gifted to the attendees in a Vegetarian Vision carry bag.

An efficient executive committee team of Dr. Krishna Jhaveri (Vice President), Dr. Uttam Munver (Vice President), Dr. Harshad Bhatt (Vice President), Minesh Desai (Finance), Sudhir Tolia (Administration) volunteers Malati Shah, Suvarna Shah, Sudha Munver, Anupam Goenka and many others, under the leadership of Chairman Mr. H. K. Shah, President Animesh Goenka; Pageant Chair Flora Parekh & Co-Chair Vinod Shah contributed to the huge success of the program and the goal of spreading a noble cause of promoting "Vegetarian Way of Life".

Mrs. Flora Parekh and Mrs. Varsha Joshi were the "Master of Ceremonies" for the evening. Melodious Bollywood singing by Varsha Joshi rocked the audience through the evening. Ms. Nivea Kothari was instrumental in coordinating and handling the contestants through the evening.

The event was completely sold out with over 350 people representing several organization and community leaders from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. The program started with sumptuous appetizers followed by formal opening by Pageant Chair & Jt. Secretary Flora Parekh and a welcome note by Pageant Co-Chair & Secretary Mr. Vinod Shah.

Mr. H. K. Shah and Animesh Goenka recognized the major donors for the current year Mr. Nitin & Leena Doshi and Mr. Paresh & Flora Parekh. They also thanked all the additional donors, sponsors and community leaders and welcomed incoming President Mr. Naveen Shah.

Several media; including South Asian Times – Mr. Kamlesh Mehta, TV Asia, IVS TV, PTC Punjabi, Get Punjabi, Indian Panorma, South Asian Insider, Hum Hindustani, Pardes news and SUNY Old Westbury, etc. coordinated by Mr. Ajay Batra; covered the event.

Contestant went through 3 different rounds for the pageant namely – Personality & Traditional round (Top 21); Talent Round (Top 11) and Question answer round (Top 6). Five esteemed judges; Bob Dibenedetto, Pam Kwatra, Alka Shah, Shivangi Maini and Kiran Singh; efficiently judged and picked the top 4 winners at the end of round three. Audience was also given an opportunity to participate in the selection process. Total 4 selected winners below received scholarship cheque from Vegetarian Vision.

WINNERS:

Mr. Vegetarian – Harshil Parekh
Mr. Vegetarian Runner up – Meghav Parikh

Ms. Vegetarian – Pamela Osborn Popp
Ms. Vegetarian Runner up – Teena Sukhwal

Founder and Chairman Mr. Harshad K. Shah, has burning desire to make people healthy by Vegetarian Foods and lifestyle and is a visionary, and a firm believer in being healthy by Vegetarian Foods and save the animals. A strong team of volunteers, participants, donors, organizers, attendees; under his strong leadership; were instrumental in spreading his vision of promoting Vegetarian way of life amongst the youth. Program ended with Thank you note from the Secretary and Jt. Secretary followed by sumptuous dinner.