



# FILLING THE GAP

**will you be joining the movement?**



# GENE HIGA

moderator



Gene Higa is the co-founder of Mandala Weddings and a long time photographer who has traveled the world capturing life's most auspicious moments for their clients. He has also be a trailblazer educator for WPPI & the photography world, by educating new comers into the creative world on how to build a global business & a better business.



# MANDALA WEDDINGS

media partner



[www.mandalaweddings.com](http://www.mandalaweddings.com)



# NIRJARY M. DESAI

moderator



KIS (CUBED)<sup>TM</sup>  
EVENTS  
SIMPLE • SOPHISTICATED • STYLISH

Chief Experience Officer of KIS (cubed) Events, S3 Catering, & Bridal Elements by ND. An award winning event producer who has been around the globe to orchestrate over the top simple, sophisticated & stylish soirees for her clients whether it's a corporate event or social celebration, she speaks your love language. Born, Raised & Educated internationally, Nirjary has always loved creating celebrations through culture, conversations, cuisines & creative learning approaches.



# KIS(cubed) EVENTS

event partner



[www.kiscubedeevents.com](http://www.kiscubedeevents.com)





# TODAY'S MANTRA

"UNITED WE STAND !"



# VAISHALI DESHPANDE

**northeast, united states**



EVENTS BY  
*Vaishali*

ARTFULLY PLANNED | MASTERFULLY EXECUTED

Born and Raised in Jersey, Vaishali was always planning something since she was a child. It was a natural transition for her to develop event planning into a business as this was her passion from very early on.

She continued planning large scale events at Seton Hall University where she majored in Business Marketing. She started Rose Events in her last year of college in 2001 and recently branched out on her own by starting a new company - Events by Vaishali.

The company specializes in South Asian weddings throughout the country and internationally. With almost 20 years in the event planning industry, Vaishali brings a wealth of knowledge, creativity and expertise when it comes to weddings.



# NORTHEAST







## QUESTION 1

IF WE ARE WILLING TO BE OF SERVICE TO OUR CLIENTS, WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT ALL OF THEIR NEEDS ARE MET. HOW CAN WE SERVE EACH OTHER? IN TURN CREATING A MORE UNIFIED EFFORT TO UPLIFT THE ENTIRE INDUSTRY.



# PREETI VASUDEVA

**district of columbia united states**



Preeti is the owner and principal planner of Preeti Exclusive Events, a full-service boutique wedding planning company specializing in South Asian fusion destination weddings since 2004. With a reputation that is unparalleled in the industry, she utilizes her invaluable experience, eye for detail, amicable personality, and vast network, to create a niche offering with her company.

Her depth of knowledge within the events industry and innovative drive is exemplified in her new project - a startup event planning app. Preeti's passion is to give back to the community, driven by a cause near and dear to her heart, which is her own battle with breast cancer.

Four years after her initial battle, her cancer metastasized in 2019. Preeti took the challenge in stride and handled it with the utmost power and poise. In part of her effort to give back, she is a board member of Wish Upon a Wedding, a nonprofit that grants weddings for couples facing life-altering circumstances. Preeti has been featured on ABC and, most recently, a podcast for wedding professionals.





## QUESTION 2

BE VULNERABLE AND HONEST. WE ALL NEED SUPPORT SOMETIMES. IT'S TRUE OUR VULNERABILITY AND HONESTY CREATES RESPECT AMONGST OUR PEERS.



# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA





# PURVEE PATEL

west coast united states



Purvee Patel is the owner and senior events producer of Pree Events, a premier Southern California event planning agency built to move you through every element of planning, design and onsite day-of management with true peace of mind, all the while taking strides towards making a positive impact whilst sprinkling love, light, and hope along the way.

Being enchanted by the creative realms since childhood, Purvee entered the world of events a decade ago with a mission to succeed in learning it all. As she explored the many facets of the events industry, Purvee established herself into a brilliantly seasoned, vibrant yet calm Wedding and Special Events Planner, with expert knowledg spanning throughout the South Asian culture and heritage.

By fusing functional management techniques with the ultimate promise of stellar customer care and continued collaborations with top-quality vendors, Purvee has successfully created a planning system built to match your ultimate dreams and event-goals, creating timeless zen-like memories for you, your family, your community and/or your teams to last a lifetime.





## QUESTION 3

NETWORKING IS ABOUT GIVING VALUE FIRST. NOT, ASKING FOR WHAT YOU WANT. THIS ALLOWS OUR WEDDING PARTNERS TO UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF GENEROSITY. THIS MINDSET CREATES HAPPINESS AND EVOKES GRATITUDE. CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME. BE THE CHANGE.



# WEST COAST





# BRITTANY ELLIS

florida, united states



*Eventrics*  
WEDDINGS & EVENTS

Owner and Lead Event Director Brittany Ellis has specialized in Indian and Fusion Weddings for the last eight years.

During this time, Brittany has been awarded 'Best of Weddings' by the Knot for eight years in a row and additionally has been awarded 'Hall of Fame' by the Knot and Luxury Travel Guide's Wedding Planner of the year.

Her vision for creating once-in-a-lifetime experiences attributes to her awarded reputation and success stories from hundreds of couples.





## QUESTION 4

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF COMMUNITY TO YOU? HOW CAN YOU BE THE FORCE OF CHANGE IN YOUR OWN COMMUNITIES TO START TRANSPARENT CONVERSATIONS AND GROW TOGETHER.



# FLORIDA





# DILSHAN EDUSSURIYA

southwest united states



## DILSHAN WEDDINGS & EVENTS

Dilshan's passion for events started at an early age, when helping his mother plan events, from small elegant cocktail parties to large weddings.

Originally from Colombo, Sri Lanka, Dilshan moved to the US almost 20 years ago, and attended the University of the Incarnate Word, in San Antonio Texas, where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting. Dilshan continued working in the event industry while in college and grad school, including starting a party planning and catering business.

After completing his professional education, Dilshan worked in the Accounting Industry, including working for one of the "Big Four" accounting firms.

In 2016, Dilshan finally made the leap into Event Planning as a full-time career, and he launched DILSHAN Weddings & Events (DWE). DWE currently specializes in the creation and curation of South Asian Weddings.

"Our goal is to create a unique and elevated experience for our clients and their guests, one that is tailor-made, aesthetically enhanced, and professionally executed". Dilshan and his husband Michael, who is a lawyer, and their two dogs Lolo and Ponch, live in San Antonio, Texas.





## QUESTION 5

IS THERE REALLY LOCAL COMPETITION, WHAT CAN WE DO TO CREATE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD? WE ARE ALL DESERVING. MAYBE SHARE YOUR BEST PRACTICES OR BEST ADVICE ON DEALING WITH DIFFERENT SITUATIONS?



# SOUTHWEST





# RICHHA ARORA

canada



Richha Arora is an event architect. She is the principal planner and founder of Arora Events - one of the first South Asian focused wedding planning firms in Toronto, now in their 12th year! Richha has an Honours Business Management degree from the University of Toronto, an Event Management Certificate from Ryerson University and is a certified wedding consultant with the Wedding Planning Institute of Canada (WPIC).

Richha has built her brand to include a team, with over 30 years of combined event expertise and she continues to build their reputation in the world of fusion and multicultural weddings and events. Arora Events produces an average of 40 upscale soirees to trendy weddings annually and have worked on all styles of South Asian and fusion weddings locally in Toronto, across Canada and even around the globe in the Caribbean South America, Disney and Spain!

Richha's prestigious portfolio and coveted clientele has been featured in publications such as WedLuxe, Today's Bride, WeddingBells, Elegant Weddings, Lavish Dulhan and Style Me Pretty, to name a few. Most recently, Richha has been awarded the title of Wedding Planner of the Year in 2018 & 2019 by the WPIC!





## QUESTION 6

WHAT CAN WE DO TO EMPOWER ONE ANOTHER? LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER. MINDSET IS EVERYTHING.



# CANADA







## QUESTION 7

DO YOU HOLD YOURSELF AND YOUR VENDOR TEAM ACCOUNTABLE? DO YOU ASK FOR FEEDBACK OR GIVE FEEDBACK TO YOUR WEDDING PARTNERS SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO LEARN FROM THE PAST AND MAKE TOMORROW BETTER.





# 3 INGREDIENTS

- COMPASSION
- INTEGRITY
- RESPECT





# THOUGHTS?

DON'T GET CLIQUEY. EXPANDING YOURSELF TO NEW IDEAS AND NEW PEOPLE IS HOW YOU GROW. WHAT CAN ONE DO TO PUT THEMSELVES IN A SITUATION THAT IS OUTSIDE OF THEIR NORM?





HOW WILL YOU UNITE...

WHAT IS YOUR COMMITMENT TO  
THIS INDUSTRY?





# REMINDER OF TODAY'S MANTRA

"UNITED WE STAND !"





**ONE CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH ALONE IT TAKES A TEAM...**





**WE**

**ELEVATE**

**WITH YOU!**

UNITE THE INDUSTRY WITH US.

**KIS** (CUBED)<sup>TM</sup>  
**EVENTS**

SIMPLE • SOPHISTICATED • STYLISH



**M&M**

MANDALA WEDDINGS



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