

EAGA Business Builder

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Today's speaker was Hass Aslami—Pizza 9 Franchise System



Mr. Aslami is a native of Tehran, Iran. His family is in the construction business, and while growing up, Mr. Aslami became very familiar with that industry. He intended to pursue a career in the construction world as well, but he wanted a formal education about how it all works. Where better to get that than in the USA. So at 17 years old, Hass headed this way to get the desired learning. In 1981, he did receive a Civil Engineering Degree from Iowa State University...but the formal book learning isn't the whole story, or even the most important part of it. While going to school, Hass had taken a few jobs. Most of them were in the food service industry and while doing that, Mr. Aslami discovered that he had a passion for the restaurant business. He put the Civil Engineering Degree on the shelf for awhile and began the work of his new career. For more than 40 years now, Hass has been involved in restaurant related activities. Ten years ago, he brought Chicago style pizza to New Mexico via a new company named Pizza 9. The single store progressed into multiple locations, then into a franchise operation. Over the past year or so, the restaurants have been severely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic related shutdowns, but are finally starting back toward 'normal' as restrictions are loosened a little. But today's presentation was not about that. After the brief summary of his personal journey, Mr. Aslami passed the discussion to a couple of guest speakers to tell the audience about a new adventure—Fundaxi. Kenyon Bradley, Chief Technology Officer, and Jasmine Bouquet, Marketing Manager explained the general concept of Fundaxi, and how it is working. For quite a long time, fundraising entities have partnered with businesses in the community in order to provide the partner with extra revenue, and the fundraising entity with a source for money to use in their activities. Fundaxi was created to facilitate a transparent fundraising experience between businesses and community support organizations, providing real-time results and reporting. The mission is to connect community groups and businesses with a system of giving that is trustworthy, efficient and convenient. The Fundaxi program uses three types of entities: The "Fundaxer" is the individuals or organization that are arranging the fundraiser; The "Partner" is any business willing to host fundraisers at their location; and the "Funder" is anyone who supports a fundraiser. The basic concept is that Fundaxers use the website to notify potential Partners of the need to raise money, explaining the reason and benefit of the need. Partners use the site to record their desire to help, and specify particular days, and any particular requirements for their participation. The Funders go to the website, choose a fundraiser that they want to support, then purchase Fundaxi Fundz to be redeemed at the event, on the day of the fundraiser. With the Fundaxi site recording and tracking all activity, there is an opportunity for great benefit to all involved. The Fundaxer always knows how their fundraising activity is progressing, and exactly how much money they will receive for their event. The Partner is able to generate revenue on otherwise slow business days, and the Partner is also able to see how many participants to expect so as to plan for staff, supplies and product accordingly. The Funder gets to enjoy a good meal or service while supporting a worthy cause. It is a pretty straight forward concept, and the process is relatively easy to use, whether on the giving or receiving side of the fundraiser. If you want to find out more about Fundaxi, the quickest way is to visit their website <https://fundaxi.com>. It provides all the details in a very understandable manner. That is also the site to visit if you want to participate in the program as a Funder, Fundaxer, or Partner. You could also contact Mr. Aslami at 505-764-3782. He will provide you with answers to any of your Fundaxi related questions (including whether or not there are paper versions of Fundaxi Fundz with Hass' picture on them). Hass can also provide you with a lot of insight into how to make a tasty Chicago style pizza in the desert, any secret ingredients in a Revel Burger, or how filling is a Chello Seh.

- ◆ There will be a Board meeting right after the regular breakfast meeting, this coming Tuesday, May 4th.
- ◆ The 2021 Summer Bash has been scheduled for July 10th at the Turpen family estate. The Bash Committee will be forming soon. If you are interested in finding out whether or not all the stories about that committee are true, become a member. It is easy enough to do that. Just contact one of the Committee Co-Chairmen; Pat Maloy [pat@maloymobilestorage.com] or Dan Mowery [danmowery@gmail.com].
- ◆ Tuesday meetings continue at Rio Bravo Brewing. The next one—May 4th - 7:00 am. It appears that the pandemic restrictions are easing (ever sooo slowly), but for this week, they still exist. Please wear your masks to, and from, the venue, and even inside when you are not actually seated and eating your breakfast. Keep your social distancing and please let Rio Bravo's staff serve you the food and beverages.
- ◆ Upcoming speakers:

May 4th	Lou Rodges—Retriever Merchant Services
May 11th	T. J. Maloy—Waterjet Cutting
May 18th	Available Business Promotion Opportunity slot
May 25th	Available Business Promotion Opportunity slot

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