Respected Nepali community members Namaskar!
We are very proud to be part of this association and thankful for the opportunity to lead this organization for the next 2 years. We would like to thank you all community members and past leaders for your generous support in the development and growth of the Nepali community here in Florida. Our main collective goal is to encourage and facilitate active engagement of our Nepali community to promote our culture and heritage and foster our identity, brotherhood, and solidarity for the next generation to experience and appreciate. We would like to fascinate the new generation and encourage them to participate in our organizational activities by learning about their needs and expectations and addressing them in the best possible ways.

As soon as we committed to lead NAF for next two years, we reached out to representatives of local Nepali organizations in Florida such as INLS Florida chapter, NCCO, and NOA, Florida chapter. We discussed about coordinating with our future programs such as, NAF’s annual function, visit Nepal 2020, Kids programs, membership drive, and coordination of Pathsalas in Florida. I and Nepalese Student Association at University of Florida coordinated to start Nepali Pathsala in Gainesville and celebrated opening ceremony on January 5, 2020. NAF executive committee would like to thank Gainesville Nepali community for their exciting participation and support to this initiative.

We also reached out to our Jacksonville, Tallahassee, and Miami chapter’s presidents and discussed about expectation from parent organization (NAF) and coordination with the future programs. We proudly announce our upcoming Mentorship program for new graduates and who are looking for job and advice for professional development. We are hoping that this program will help and support our new generation to boost their networking and career development.

We would like to thank you our Jacksonville chapter for your willingness to host Nepali New Year picnic on April 11, 2020. We also would like to thank our past president Mr. Bimal Nepal and West Palm Beach Nepali community for continuity of ‘Adapt a Highway Program’ that was started in 2016 by Mr. Ram Sharan Thapa and the Team.

Last but not the least, on behalf of central executive committee of NAF (2019-2021), we would like to introduce and congratulate our members at large, advisors, Nepal Study Forum and Community Study Forum representatives, and ANEC committee for next 2 years.

We recently launched our website with new look, please check it out and let us know if there is anything we can improve. https://floridanepalese.org/

Please feel free to reach out to us through social media, telephone, and in person with our representatives across the state.
Thank you all and Happy new year 2020!
With respect,
Anila Neupane Paudyal
Thank you note from IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Dr. Choodamani Khanal tenure re

Dear Nepali friends and family,

On behalf of Nepalese Association of Florida (NAF) central executive committee (2017-2019), I would like to thank you all for your support to serve the organization and Nepali community here in Florida and beyond. As we celebrated prosperous and joy-filled Vijaya Dashami along with annual general meeting in West Palm Beach on October 20, 2019, we are also proud to handover the central executive committee to young and dynamic board led by president Anila Neupane on the same day. I would like to congratulate the new team and wish the best for yet another successful tenure.

Dashian, Tihar, Chhat, Nepal bhasha and Nepali values and cultural celebrations, from time immemorial, have marked our tradition of striving to be prudent, compassionate, and honest. Celebrating Nepali festivals not only preserves and promotes our values but also helps strengthen the bondage among Nepalese communities in Nepali diaspora. Following their footsteps, us Nepali too, have longed to imprint their characteristics inside us and bring happiness to our communities no matter where we are located. Especially, in the Nepalese community of Florida, we have not only believed in these virtues, but have acted upon them by working to relieve disaster related stress, preserving our morals and values, and constantly looking for opportunities to serve. I could not be prouder of the work that our community here has put in.

The Dashain celebration started with the National Anthem (Nepal and US) by pathshala kids followed by welcome speech by NAF president. President welcomed the guests and called upon the distinguished guests in the dais. Ambassador of Nepal to the US Dr. Arjun Kumar Karki delivered a message live from Washington DC and wished the best for successful program. General Secretary Dr. Pragati Ghimire Aryal also greeted the participant and anchored the program along with Mr. Deep Karki. Among the distinguished guests present during this special event were our former Presidents Sanjaya Bajracharya, Bimal Nepal, Bikash Devkota, Ram Sharan Thapa together with NASeA General Secretary Krishna Shrestha, INLS-Florida Chapter President Nijananda Malla, MAA- Florida Chapter President Prem Singh, ANA Former President Pramod Sharma and distinguished guests representing all regions of Florida.

On behalf of NAF-ANEC chair Mr. Rajeev Lamsal and committee members Mr. Rajendra Shrestha, Dr. Bidya Raj Subedi conducted the oath ceremony to newly elected NAF central Executive Board. Outgoing President Dr. Choodmani Khanal handed over the NAF Presidents symbol “Khukuri” a sign of peace and bravery to the President elect Ms. Anila Neupane and wished her and her team a successful tenure. On behalf of new-committee, president Neupane delivered the acceptance speech with thanks to outgoing committee and called upon everyone to join the mission of NAF to serve and strengthen the Nepali community here in Florida and beyond.

Sports has always been NAF’s special event during Dashain and New year’s events. As always special attraction of the Dshain event has been the Abi Kattel Memorial Soccer Tournament. On behalf of NAF and Abi Kattel Memorial Foundation, NASeA/NAF Former President Bimal Nepal Congratulated and distributed the awards and the medals to the 1st runnerup team…. and the winner Tampa NepTe, Orlando Rhinos and Florida Chautari also took part in the soccer tournament. Mr. Nepal also extended special gratitude to the Former Presidents Dr. Bijay Kattel And Dr. Archana Kattel for sponsoring the soccer tournament on behalf of Abi Kattel Memorial Foundation every year. He also thanked Mr. Binod Basnet, Dr. Niraj Shrestha and all Referee, Linesmen and volunteers for successfully coordinating the soccer tournament.

On the same occasion, International Nepali Literary Society, Florida Chapter conducted literary program and released their annual literary publication ‘Sagar’. President of INLS Florida Chapter Mr. Nijananda Malla called upon all the former presidents and advisers during the sagar bimochan. Former President of ANA and NAF adviser Mr. Pramod Sharma released the first copy of Sagar. Mr. Malla recited a poem and thanked all individuals for the support that led to the continuation of Sagar publication. Dr. Amar Karki, Dr. Bidya Subedi, Tikaram Paudel, Deep Karki and other poets also recited their poems. Former president of INLS Florida Chapter, and current General Secretary of NASeA Mr. Krishna Shrestha also recited poem and gave a shubhakamana message.

During this moment, on behalf of NAF executive committee I took the pleasure to honor social leaders and individuals who have made outstanding contribution to the community and extended support in NAF various activities.

NAF 2019 Heros!
Mr. Pramod Sharma, NAF Adviser and Former President ANA Abi Kattel Memorial Foundation, Dr. Bijay Kattel and Dr. Archana Kattel
Nimesh Memorial Foundation, Dr. Bhogendra and Sarita Khanal
Mr. Bimal Nepal, Former President NASeA and NAF (FANS)
7 years of age group kids Arvin Shrestha, Viaan Paudel, and Pranaya Chapagain performed amazing group dance. Aakash Sharma, Nirali Shrestha, Hrit and Hirman Khanal danced in a remix song. Ashna Paudel, Trisha Chapagain, Sansita and Ankita Adhikari performed typical Nepal dance making audiences spellbound. Dance by Siddhartha Biswa from Orlando, Medley by Bhuvan Khanal and Nabin Timilsina, Dashain song by Nimesh Malla and DJ made the audiences dancing on the floor.

From bottom of my heart, I would like to extend special thanks to all Nepalse in Florida and beyond for the unconditional support extended to me during my tenure. Special thanks to my spouse Sarita Timilsina and two kids Hirt and Hirman and close family and friends for their love and support.

-Thank you-

NAF Committee 2019-2021

Election committee of NAF has announced the name of Newly elected executive committee as below at NAF AGM Dashian Celebration: October 20, 2019. Below are the member list.

Executives Officers
Ms. Anila Neupane -President
Dr. Pragati Ghimire - Vice-President
Dr. Niraj Shrestha - General Secretary
Mr. Bishal Gautam - Treasurer
Mr. Narayan Neupane - Information Secretary

Member at Large
Mr. Dipendra Sahi (Gainesville)
Mr. Deep Karki (Tampa)
Ms. Kalpana Shrestha (Jacksonville)
Mr. Nirjal Shrestha (Gainesville)
Ms. Priti Dhungel Bhandary (West Palm)
Dr. Cheban Acharya (Fort Myers)

Nepal Study Forum and Community Forum Coordinator
Dr. Amar Bahadur Karki (West palm)

Advisory Committee
Dr. Chooda Mani Khanal
Mr. Krishna Shrestha
Mr. Binod Basnet
Mr. Pankaz Sharma
Mr. Sushil Bhattachan

Amendments/ Nominations and Election Committee (ANEC)
Mr. Rajeeb Lamsal
Dr. Bidya R. Subedi
Mr. Rajendra Shrestha

From my heart I would like to extend special thanks to all Nepalse in Florida and beyond for the unconditional support extended to me during my tenure. Special thanks to my spouse Sarita Timilsina and two kids Hirt and Hirman and close family and friends for their love and support.

-Thank you-

Dr. Bidya Raj Subedi - Member, NAF-ANEC Committee
Mr. Sanjaya Bajracharya, Former President NAF(FNA) and NOA Florida Chapter
Mr. Bikash Devkota, Former President NAF (United FNA-FANS)
Mr. Ram Thapa, Former President NAF
Mr. Krishna Shrestha, General Secretary NASeA
Mr. Nijananda Malla, President INLS Florida Chapter
Dr. Rajendra Shakya President elect NOA-Florida Chapter
Mr. Prem Singh, President MAA Florida Chapter

Remind to have in alphabetical order

Ms. Srijana Nepal
Dr. Amar Bdr Karki
Dr. Niraj Shrestha
Mr. Ashok Shrestha
Mr. Binod Basnet
Ms. Pragati Ghimire
Ms. Manju Malla
Dr. Nabeen Timilsina
Ms. Sunita Shrestha
Master Saugat Shrestha

Singer, social leader and multi-talented Mr. Rajendra Singh Raut performed Newari song followed by Nepali song. Dr. Binod Baral’s basuri dhun was charismatic. The local talents were no less than any visiting artists.

Nepal Studies Forum and Community Forum Coordinator
Dr. Amar Bahadur Karki (West Palm)

Advisory Committee
Dr. Chooda Mani Khanal
Mr. Krishna Shrestha
Mr. Binod Basnet
Mr. Pankaz Sharma
Mr. Sushil Bhattachan

Amendments/ Nominations and Election Committee (ANEC)
Mr. Rajeeb Lamsal
Dr. Bidya R. Subedi
Mr. Rajendra Shrestha
Adopt-A-Highway Quarterly cleaning program

scheduled for 2020 (3rd Sunday of each quarter Jan, April, July, Oct 2020)

1st Quarter: Sunday, January 19th 2020
2nd Quarter: Sunday, April 19th, 2020
3rd Quarter: Sunday, July 19th, 2020
4th Quarter: Sunday, October 18th, 2020

Dress: It is advised to wear full shirt, jean pants, close shoes, and a hat. You can bring your own gloves if not, we will provide you disposable gloves and trash bags to pick up the trash. FDOT will provide us yellow reflective jackets during our Volunteer hours.

MENTORING

Coaching & Mentoring

Mentoring is a proven method and research shows that mentored individuals have favorable outcomes in several areas of life including educational achievement, career exploration, career growth, business growth and job placement attainment. Hence, we (Nepalese Association of Florida) are introducing our mentorship program for our community members tapping our highly capable pool of community Mentors. Our mentors can help you with career exploration, college entrance, job placement, IT skills, entrepreneurship & business growth and many more.

To learn more about mentoring program or to sign up please contact us at info@floridanepalease.org or visit www.floridanepalease.org.

www.floridanepalease.org
बिदेशिए म
सरोज सुक्त

चाल चलन र रहन सहन बदले पनि भाषा र विचारमा परिवर्तन आए पनि मेरो रागमा त लिम्निको राघानी छ बुझा बुझा मा नेपाली पन्नो चिन्ने छ। समुद्रको स्थानमा प्रवाहित भए पनि खढेको व्याख्या छ्याख्या बुझाउने ताल हिँदुर्ध्रुवको वहक महकमा मस्क परे पनि दर्शीको दही अश्वेताले भर सक्नुहोस्। स्वतन्त्रता तथा सुविधाले लोभमा माँगी धारमो जैन झुडङ्को झुडङ्को कथा जस्ते म झुडङ्को लाभको ध्यो झ्यो ताद्रोमा कुनाला झुडङ्क लथाली छुने भासमा।

नेपलिङ्ग एसोसिएसन अफ फ्लोरिडा का सूचनाहारक श्री बिनाइद बस्नेट एबम श्रीमति संरिता बस्नेट लाई सन्तान प्राप्त भयेकोमा हासिक बधाई झापन गर्दछौ।

नेपलिङ्ग एसोसिएसन अफ फ्लोरिडा (नाफ) www.floridanepalease.org

लोकस्तरका महान बाबा

टिकलाम पैडेल

आमाको दुःख संतानले देख्ने बाबाको देखनन् हातका ठेला पाइताला खिएको कस्तै मेटेन्।

सूर्यको प्रकाश देख्नुमा तातो चन्द्रमा विलिन बाबाको स्वभाव प्रकाश जस्तै आमाको मलिन, संसारमा सूर्य भएन् भने चन्द्रमा विलिन्। आमाको ---------------------।

लुकेको माया बाबामा हन्त, आमाले देखाउने, बाबाको व्याख्या दराउने हन्त, आमाले हसाउने, पसिना बगाउ बाबाले ल्याउछन् आमाको रस आउने, दुबैको मिश्रित विद्र तागत संतान हो फहाउने। आमाको ---------------------।

संतानको आमा अन्नाई ल्याउने घरबार सजाउने, संतानभोज पाउनालाई भान्द्रेम वसाउने, वर्तमान भूत भविष्य सम्म इज्जतमा हिंदाउने, सबैलाई सुखसयल दिन ज्यानवाजी लगाउने,

मुख्यमान्य छैन लक्नौ हामाता साथै रहिन्, संतानले भन्नुहुने बाबाले माया गरेको थाहा छैन, बुझ्नुहुने जब बाबाको माया ल्याउनुले बाढैन्। आमाको ---------------------।

समाप्त।
गजल

गजल

बिकाश देवकोटा

लौन यो यात्रा अति कठिन भो,
हिङ्गलाई खे त गोरेटो?

आँसुमा डुबुल्की मानन थाबलसके े  रािहरु
(खै ि दीप बाल्ने कुण्ड? बहन्छ सधै बसरेटो)^2!

लीन यो यात्रा अति कठिन भो,
हिङ्गलाई खे त गोरेटो?

अगस्त असाय भावनाहर
छरपट वालमा पोतीन्छन्
आलोचना, समर्थन, जन्म मृत्यु , असल,
कमसल
घुणा देश , आवेग, करणा, माया , प्रेम आदि
आदि ,

आशर्य , कहिलेको नसोचका
उदेकलाग्दा घटनापनि सुनिन्छन्
यो मानिसको दैनिक हो
न हर्प न विश्वास ! न त भ्रम नत सत्य !

उफ् ! हरे शिव , शिव !
विपल्ल्स्मा हार्ल्ट
tर, खोशो र सिधा कुरामा विरक्तिने हास्रो पर
म्या विद्वमा छ,
खे के भनी हास्रो प्रवृति
अनायास प्रशंसा , समर्थन, चरित्र हल्या
एकी साथ हुन्छ,

The End!
मलाइ समाधान छ जहाँ ३५ वर्ष पछिले पिस्कोर (Peace Corps) भने एउटा प्रोग्राम अन्तरात्मक केहि गोराहु हाम्रो गुआमा को रीबै एक खेल महिनाको लागी पेडा गेस्ट भएर बसेका थिए। ति अभी कन मध्य एक जना मैरी छिमेको हजुरबाको घरमा बसेका थिए। म उनी सकि आफुले "My English Book" मा पढेको टुटे कुरेको अग्रेजी जोडेको कुरा गरेछ। अघि होलो मलाई लाग्ने जसकि उनले मैरी आउट पन्ने कुरा बुझौ। लेखार र प्था इमा हाम्रो अग्रेजी रामो भए पनी हाम्रो बोलाइ भने यस्तो तिथिले ह्युर्जङ्ग एउटा सानो उपशुद्ध। कङ्क्षा हाम्रो वानै दर्घमा रहेको भए। को रहेक भने याँही अमेरिकाको कुलमा जस्तो तुलुकक कङ्क्षा छ इहुँ पाहिदेन नी नेपालको सुलतानहरू हाम्रोले तो पछिले काल पाल्टियो। हाम्रो दाँतु रहेते न याही भन्दै आफ थिए। पछिलो भए इहुँले पनी लागी भन्दै। हाम्रीलाई मालेसी मलाई सल्ले याँही भन्ने भए वटको थियो तर के कुलमे पनी केहि नुलाई धाहा थिए। बेर्नी पनी मल भो "May I come in, sir?" भनेको रहेछ भन्ने बुझे। तर हास उसलाई कुरो भने म बिस बर्नी पनी लो स्कुलमा जादा पनी बिघायली टोकामा उपमहाकु उसलाई माध जिम सर भन्दै रहेछन। सहायत अघि सुदूर बोली सिकाउन भो कि गुरुहरू। यस्तो तिथिले हाम्रो सरकारी स्कुलको अभ्यासीले बोलाइ र सिकाउ। जे हास तौकी रुलाई मलेसी साथी नेपालीले थिए। उनले नेपाल आउटा र बस्ता अनुभव गरेको नौला कुराहु मध्य सबै भन्दा जडका लागेको कुरो रहेछ हाम्रो महिलाहरू महिलाबीहरू हुदै नेपालमा त्रयो तर हो। यस्तो कुरा उनले लोगी सुनाएका थिए जस्ती मलेको फोर्स सर्को पनी बजेको हाम्रोबीको सम्बन्धमा तालाहुरात्मा सुनाए। पिनलाई झट्का लागेको कुरो हाम्रो लागी भने साधरण थियो।

अब प्रसर्थक यस्तो जोडी। भोली पल्ट प्रोफसर योडले भनेको बख्तामा उस्तो अफिस पुरो। आफ्नो काम बन्ने पछिले अफिस नेपाल बाट लेस एको कोस्ती सुलाई दक्राए। लो नेपाली कामाज्ञा उत्तरार्थको नम रामाखाङ्का एउटा चिन्न है। अघि उनले "माइ गर्न छौ! लभ माउँ ने।" भनेर अफिसको भिठमा उनले ठाउँ। "तम भताडौ"। मलाई तर्क था यी सम्बन्धको समयमा नमिले जस्तो लागो। म भनेर देखालाई मायागरी, आमलाई मायागरी भने जस्तो हो ला ति भन्दै पनी लागो। तर उनको मुहारमा हाम्रो खुशीको बन्ने रहेछ भने म धुर रहेछ। हिमालको सरमात्मा धुर कुरो सोदै उनले तालाय आफ्नो रिसर्च विद्यालब देखाउन भर्नेछ। तिर ज्वार हाम्रोले मेरी नौला प्रोफेसर भ्राऊन एर एक जना चाइनिज पोस्ट डक प्रढेर भए। ती हामिला पोस्ट डकको नाम "Xi Yayung" रहेछ। चाइनिजहरुको नाम यस्तो आफ्नो हुने भएकोले उलिनहुँ दिबेस आफिसहरू ने राखुँ रहेछ। जस्तो माइक, क्रेम आफिसहरू। तर उनलाई लाग्ने "सिन भन्दै रहेछ। सियापु राखेको प्रोफेसर भ्राऊन उनले स्कुलमा गर्ने को रिजल्ट दिखाउनुको सथापना गर्नुहो। जस्तो जस्तो उनले "न या नया प्राकृतिक हुने देखाउँ जाइन फोर्सको सुखी हुदै उक्सेसेटेंट एक्सेसेटेंट भन्दै जानौ र बेला बेलामा म तिर हेतौ। अन्तमा प्रोफेसर ले सुखीले उलिनी हुदै भने "That's great Xi! You are awesome. I love you."

यी सत्तो बर्नी पनी खाने बोलाइ बुढा प्रोफेसरको यी २५ वर्षीय पुत्री लो पनी अफिस अफिसको भ्राऊन रामीले तालाहुमा
Karki, would you like to have some buffalo chick?

I love your dress. It's so beautiful.
The Community Celebrates the Festival of Lights -- Deepawali at the Wellington Branch Library

This year’s historic celebration of the Festival of Lights, organized by the Palm Beach County Library, witnessed the involvement of the Ambassador of Nepal to the US and the Vice Mayor of Maryland. For the first time, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Government of Nepal to the United States of America and Ambassador Designate to: Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, and Guyana, Dr. Arjun Karki addressed the Festival of Lights celebrated on Saturday, October 19 at the Wellington Branch Library. His Excellency, in his video message, spoke about the importance of the library in preserving the identities and cultures of the multicultural population.

While Vice-Mayor of Town of Indian Head, Maryland, Kiran Sitoula joined us live via Skype and highlighted the significance of the festival marking the celebration of light over darkness. The Vice Mayor who heard about the Deepawali festival organized at the Wellington Library wishes to follow our lead and organize one at his Charles County Public Library in Maryland in the following year.

This could be a significant step in the library’s role in bridging cultures. We celebrate cultures by recognizing the similarities and respecting the differences. Celebrating diversity not only makes us compassionate and considerate but it also helps create a sense of a community feeling connected. The multicultural celebration where we gathered from various backgrounds was a perfect example of the community coming together and celebrating this festival.

Deepawali is a Sanskrit word meaning “rows of lighted lamps.” Deepawali, Diwali, Tihar- they all mean the same thing: The Festival of Lights. This South Asian festival is a beautiful reminder of the celebration of inner light. People extend best wishes and exchange gifts; they worship gods, goddesses, humans, birds, and animals; they decorate houses with lighted lamps and fireworks and they sing and dance with joy and jubilation. So, nothing was different at the Wellington Library that day; people from all walks of life and all ages, from near and far, came to celebrate. It was well attended by a total of 150 people ranging from various cultural backgrounds from all the way from Miami to Port St. Lucie representing Nepal, India, Bangladesh, and Guyana. The Nepali group raised $30.00 for the Friends of the Library by singing Deusi and Bhailo. In return, the bhailinis and deusis were served old-fashioned doughnut somewhat resembling special Nepali doughnut- sel roti and some samosas.

This time it was special because the Wellington staff participated in the event. Our very own Frances Theodore impressed dozens of people with her henna skill while Rajesh Koppikar wowed the audience by a whistling rendition. The staff came up with various crafts for making diyos (paper lamps); some little children were engaged in making lamps, happy to be part of the team. The Deepawali décor by staff displaying tea lights, net lights, string lights; the flowers; the drapes; the paper lamps; gave an otherworldly outlook! They even met the technical challenges and livestreamed the entire event for the world to see.

The participants said they “enjoyed the event immensely.” Many stayed until the very end. They were seen taking pictures with the performers and asking them about the costumes with keen interest. My Branch Manager Margaret Barry thanking me for sharing my cultures with the community said, “I’ve enjoyed all five Deepawali celebrations with my children, and we continue to learn new things about the Festival of Lights. We love the musical and dance performances, and we experience a sense of connection and merriment. I get to see behind the scenes, too, and I know that Deepawali is a deep labor of love for all who plan, prepare and organize the event. Many Wellington alumni attend, so it’s become our unofficial-official homecoming. My thanks to all who support Deepawali.” Similarly, another coworker said, “It brought festivity, culture, and color to the Wellington Branch Library community. Its value continues to lie in allowing community members to participate in a culture and tradition different from their own, broadening their perception of community while sharing in the rich experience.”

On the other hand, when I asked my daughter why she thought it was important to hold such celebrations at the library, she said, “Being that I was born and raised in the Unit-
ed States, I’ve come to know how imperative it is that I am able to connect to my culture and heritage and, simultaneously, enable the world I live in everyday to have some insight into how I live my life. In holding these programs, the library provides a space where we can set aside our preconceived notions of one another and instead celebrate our differences in the most noble way possible.”

I am appreciative of the Palm Beach County Library System, The Friends of the Library, my current as well as former team of supervisors and coworkers for the financial, moral and technical support extended toward the preservation of South Asian cultures. If it were not for the library, I would not have gotten the opportunity to teach my daughter how to dance and to show others how we celebrate our culture.

I am indebted to the Nepali Association of Florida (NAF), the state-level organization, for recognizing my contribution to reaching out to different communities beyond just the Nepali community and bringing multicultural and multinational communities together since 2015. I would like this token of appreciation that has been awarded to me be dedicated to every single one of you who have been participating in all of our seven events, which have drawn around 1,000 individuals thus far. This has given me a sense of a mission that I need to keep working towards preserving, protecting and promoting cultures, wherever I am in my cultural journey, which started 17 years ago when I landed in Florida:

**Celebrating Deepawali Away from Home**

When I came to this country many years ago, I was heartbroken thinking there might not be any festivities I may not see any glimmering oil lamps The flowers might not feel or smell the same How on earth will I hear the crackles of firecrackers? I would ruminate To my wonderment, I did not feel any less excitement in the air Didn’t find flickering tea-lights and shimmering net-lights any less bright The flowers felt the same; even the fragranceLittle did I know — what really mattered was the sparkle in the eyes of the celebrants I used to agonize-- how will I immerse in the singing, dancing, and chanting of deusi-bhailo! How will I continue the tradition? How will ever I preserve my culture for my children and grandchildren? But as I watch little children singing and dancing to the traditional songs or chanting deusi-bhailo with the same enthusiasm I am convinced this is how we promote, protect, and preserve for the next generation Hand over the tradition to our future generation I am deeply touched by the gestures of my newfound families: My co-workers making an effort to say “Deepawali” practicing how to apply henna learning how to make Rangoli designs wanting to wear a saree Library members desperate to find performers for this program— Isn’t it the essence of celebrating culture? I begin to ponder

**Though our own families may not be near**
Your friends become families; and families become communities, here
**Weaving the cultural bond broader, stronger**
Nepal is a wonderous country nestled between China and India. In Nepal, there are 3 specific regions and those are Himal, Pahad, and Tarai. The Himal region has part of the Himalayan mountain range in the northern part of Nepal. In this region, there are many snowy mountains and the climate is cold year-round as well as the tallest mountain in the world, Mount Everest. The people that live here wear specific clothing that keeps them warm in the harsh climate they live in. Many people also go trekking in specific mountains such as Annapurna and Sagarmatha (Mount Everest). In the Pahad region, there are many hills filled with greenery. This region is also where most of the population of Nepal lives. Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, is also in the Pahad region.

Kathmandu is a city with many temples made of wood. In Nepali, “kath,” means wood and “mandu,” means temple. Together the words create the capital, Kathmandu. Along with all of the wonderful temples in Kathmandu, it is where the Kumari (living goddess) also resides. In the Tarai, it is a flatland so most of the country’s rice is produced there. Also in Tarai is Chitwan National Park. This park is similar to a zoo, but it is even more special because people see many exotic animals while riding an elephant. Within the three regions of Nepal, there are many different ethnicities as well as languages. Nepal is very rich with culture and this because of the many different ethnic groups of Nepal. These different ethnic groups also have specific attire and customs that they follow. These customs are influenced by the place that they live in and their lifestyle. In addition to all of the spectacular ethnic groups and tribes, Nepal has 123 spoken...
There are many influential people that were born in Nepal. Among those people, some languages.

include Skrinkhala Katiwada, Anushka Shrestha, Anuradha Koirala, Pushpa Basnet, Tenzing Norgay, and Buddha. Skrinkhala Khatiwada is Miss Nepal 2018 and Anushka Shrestha is Miss Nepal 2019. These women have tremendous accomplishments in either remote villages that were impoverished. These two women lead large projects and Skrinkhala designed and built a health post and provided resources for the people of the village. Anushka built a school and gave adults job opportunities for the people of the villages. Anuradha Koirala and Pushpa Basnet are both CNN Heros. In different ways, they both helped children in desperate need of love and care. Anuradha Koirala who created an organization to help girls from trafficking. Pushpa Basnet created an orphanage for children. Tenzing Norgay was the first Nepalese person to climb to the summit of Mount Everest (Sagarmatha).
Buddha was born in Lumbini, Nepal. Buddha taught everyone love and peace.

Even though Nepal may not seem like a large country, it has an abundance of culture, beauty, and love. Nepal is one of the most beautiful places on Earth with all the different landscapes and cultures everywhere.

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Community Activities

Nepalese community in Orlando, Organized 41st “Tribeni” Series at Devkota Niwas on Dec.9, 2019

INLS Florida chapter completes almost 10 years of organizing INLS-Florida chapter West Palm Beach Pathasha-la in Palm Springs library on a monthly basis. Nov.9, 2019

Deusi Bhailo Program Organized in Orlando-10-27-2019

Rangoli
Nepali Pathsala-Gainesville opening ceremony

January 5, 2020

NAF would like to congratulate Gainesville Nepali community for starting Nepali Pathsala for children. Anila and Nepalese Students Association@University of Florida president Dipendra Sahi have welcomed and thanked all parents for their support in the coordination of Pathsala. The ceremony started with worshiping (Puja) of Bidya ki khkani, Mata Saraswati and Shree Ganesh, coordinated by Saroj Hukla, Anila, Eliza and all Pathsala children. Pathsala Banner was created by Rewati Raman Neupane and ceremony was inaugurated by respected seniors Mr. Tirtha Mali, Dr. Shailendra Sukla, Dr Brijesh Thapa, and all seniors in Gainesville. The program was moderated by Ms. Ambika Shakya and started with the Nepali national anthem and Shivanka Ranabhat played violin in “Sayeu thunga.” Ms. Eliza Acharya, one of the youngest Guru Aama in Pathsala, presented a different aspect of Nepal in powerpoint. Ambika Shakya introduced assigned Guru Ba and Guru Aama, and children introduced themselves. Tika Ram Paudyal created and entertained all audiences by signing Pathsala song called 'Pathna aayeu Nepali Pathsala.' Eliza Acharya performed single and Kripa, Anushika, and Niva also performed group dance in Nepali songs.

OrlandO Pathshala, Nepalse Center of Orlando (NCCO) is organizing Nepali Pathshala in every 2nd and 4th of Sunday every month.
Goddess Swasthani and her eight forms

In conjunction with the recent inaugural ceremony of Gainesville Paathshala by our current NAF president, Mrs. Anila Neupane, I like to expose to the students of all Paathshalas in Florida, about Swasthani Brata Katha.

Tirtha Mali

You see kids, I just started reading SWASTHANI a few days back.

* This is a holy book that Hindus in Nepal read in front of the whole family. It is a sixteenth century ritual that takes place during the first full moon of January (month of Magh in our Nepali calendar) till the next full moon in February (month of Poush). I started it on January 10th, and will be reading one chapter a day. The big finale will be on February 9th. You get to eat a lot of Mithai (sweets) that day.

* This is something that I started after the inception of Florida-Nepal Association (now NAF) way back in 1992.

* It is a book where Kumar, son of Shiva and Parvati, and brother of Lord Ganesh, narrates to Auguste, a muni (sage). Kumar tells this spell-binding story about the creation of earth by Brahma, about gods like Shiva and Vishnu, about demons, and humans like Goma, Navraj and Chandravati.

* Goddess Swasthani is also known as a wishing goddess.

* Say you are a serious devotee to the GODDESS during this month long festival. You shower every morning and do brata (fast) every day and listen to the recital of all the mythological kathas (stories) without any distractions. You also fully concentrate and sincerely devote your mind and soul and pray faithfully to Goddess Swasthani to grant you a wish. Walla ! She could grant that wish, like she did to Parvati, Goma, Chandravati and a host of others.

* You will all be fascinated with this book.

* You will also have a lot of questions for your parents.

* I remember as a kid, listening attentively to the stories every night after dinner. Those wintry nights are still vivid to me, covering myself with a blanket, sitting with my parents, and learning the rituals of puja. The best part for me was the sweets of delicacies you get to eat as prasad (offerings) to Swasthani. For me as a child, that was the icing on the cake.

* I even remember taking a dip in the freezing Shali nadi (river) in Sankhu along with my family on the last day. Later on as I grew up to fluently read and write Nepali, I started to narrate from the same book while my whole family proudly listened to me.

You too can grow up and be motivated to read the Swasthani Brata Katha, as I did, while your proud parents attentively and breathlessly listen to every word that comes out of your mouth. Here is a special shout out to all of you who are learning Nepali.

So let us all go to PAATHSHALA!
NAF Upcoming Events

Highlights

We are on the web
www.floridanepalese.org

Follow us

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Wish You All a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year 2020

Nepalese Association of Florida (NAF)
Executive Committee (2019-2021)

Www.floridanepalese.org
Email us: info@floridanepalese.org

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