



INDRENI



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#nafloridavisitnepal



A Quarterly Publication of the Nepalese Association of Florida

Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2020

From the President's Pen

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, 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 Pathshalas in Florida. I and Nepalese Student Association at University of Florida coordinated to start Nepali Pathshala 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.

Dashain, 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 handedover 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 mis-

sion 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 Tampalese Thunder for this year's Abi Kattel Memorial Trophy which was held on October 19, 2019. 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 literatery 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 Subidi, 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. Biajy Kattel and Dr. Archana Kattel

Nimesh Memorial Foundation, Dr. Bhogendra and Sarita Khanal Mr. Bimal Nepal, Former President NASEA and NAF (FANS)

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 NAF
 Mr. Nijananda Malla, President INLS Florida Chapter
 Dr. Rajendra Shakya President elect NOA-Florida Chapter

Sarita Timilisina and two kids Hirt and Hirman and close family and friends for their love and support.

-Thank you-

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 Timilisina
 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.

5 years of age group kids Arvin Shrestha, Viaan Paudel, and Pranaya Chapagain performed amazing group dance. Aakash Sharma, Aiden 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 Bhuwan 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 Nepalese in Florida and beyond for the unconditional support extended to me during my tenure. Special thanks to my spouse

NAF Committee 2019-2021

lection 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

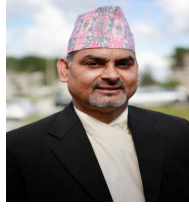
Dr. Chooda Mani Khanal
 Mr. Krishna Shrestha
 Mr. Binod Basnet
 Mr. Pankaz Sharma
 Mr. Sushil Bhattachan

Amendments/ Nominations and Election Committee (ANEC)

Mr. Rajeeb Lamsal
 Dr. Bidya R. Subedi
 Mr. Rajendra Shrestha



फेसवुक र भ्रम



विकास देवकोटा

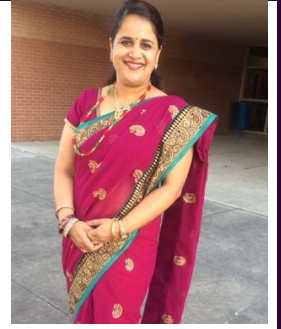
रोमाञ्चित हुँदा मन फुरुङ्ग हुन्छ ,
प्रसंसामा जीवन उज्यालिन्छ
अनि, सूर्यमय -सूर्योदय संगै दिन चर्या सुरु
हुन्छ ।

मोफसलका समाचारले फेसवुक रंगिएको छ ।
सत्य असत्य भावनाहरु
छरपष्ट वालमा पोतिन्छन्
आलोचना, समर्थन, जन्म मृत्यु , असल,
कमसल
घृणा द्वेष , आवेग, करुणा, माया , प्रेम आदि
आदि ,

आश्चर्य, कहिलेकाँही नसोचेका
उदेकलाग्दा घटनापनि सुनिन्छन्
यो मानिसको दैनिकि हो
न हर्ष न विष्मात ! न त भ्रम नत सत्य !

उफ् ! हरे शिव , शिव !
चिप्लित्तमा हर्षित
तर, खस्रो र सिधा कुरामा विरक्तिने हाम्रो पर
म्परा विद्यमान छ
खै के भनौ हाम्रो प्रवृत्ति
अनायास प्रशंसा , समर्थन, चरित्र हत्या
एकै साथ हुन्छ

गजल

Januka Dhungel Khanal
Tampa, Florida, USA

लौन यो यात्रा अति कठिन भो,
हिडनलाई खै त गोरेटो?
आधि बैसे उमेरमै समय सकिने पो हो कि
आँसुमा डुबुल्की मार्न थालिसके रातहरु
(खै त दीप बाल्ने कुण्ड? बहन्छ सधै सिरेटो)^2!
कठाङ्ग्रिएर हिउमा जमिरहेछ जिन्दगि, खै त
न्यानोपन?
जरिबूटी सबै उखेली फालियेछ म सुस्ताउने सानो बन
म त भन्दै थिएँ मै संग छ मेरो आफ्नो पन, तर हैन रैछ
(सम्झना मा मात्र सिमित हुन थालिसकेछ सुनौलो
बालापन)^2!!

कालो बादलले छोप्दै आयो दिनहरु खै त घमाइलो?
प्रतिपलहरु सुन्यतामा बिलाउन थाले, खै त रमाइलो ?
यो यात्रा कठिन भो, हिडनलाई खै त गोरेटो?
(मिर्मिरे संगै रवि किरण छाउन रोकदै सिरेटो)^2!!!

इच्छा यो छ हेर अन्तिम महा नेपाल नै जाउकि,
कर्म भूमी येतै भएनि जन्मभूमि मै माया लाउकि!
आखिर धनको र शान्ती मनको खाँचो नै टरी सक्यो,
(अब दुइ मुठी सासको र मातृ काखको आस नै परि
सक्यो)^2!!!!

The End!

शिर्षक: "सासुको बिहे"

सन्दर्भ: सांस्कृतिक झटका



- अमर कार्की

"अमर आज मेरो सासुको बिहे छ भोली भेटेर कुरा गरुम्ला है।"

ठ्याक्कै यही बाक्य बोलेका थिए प्रोफेसर योङले सन् २००१ मा म उच्च शिक्षाको लागी अमेरीका आएको केही दिन पछि उनलाई भेट्न युनीभर्सिटीमा जादा। प्रोफेसर योङलाई भेटेर मेरो असिस्टन्टसीप को कुरा गर्न म बिहानै उनको अफिस गएको थिए। हो त्यसै भनेर फर्काइ दिए उनले मलाई त्यो दिन। झन्डै मैरे उमेरका ब्यक्तीले भनेको यो कुरा त्यतिबेला मेरो लागी एउटा जानकारी मात्र थिएन। यो मेरो लागी एउटा झटका थियो। सांस्कृतिक झटका अर्थात Cultural Shock! तेरो बौ को बिहे देखाइ दिन्छु भन्दा त थर्कने संस्कृती बाट आएको मान्छेले एकै पटक सासुको बिहे को कुरा सुन्दा झटका त लाग्ने नै भयो। जसरी हाम्रो छिमेकको एकजना ६ छोरीहरु र ७ नाती नातीनाको हजुर बाले आफ्नो जेठी श्रीमती खसे पछि ६५ बर्षको उमेरमा आर्की झन्डै नातीनीकै उमेरकी केटी बिहे गर्दा हाम्रो समाजले सहजै स्वीकारेको थियो त्यस्तै अधिकार र स्वतन्त्रता रहेछ याहाको महि लाहरुलाई पनी।

मलाई सम्झना छ झन्डै ३५ बर्ष पहिले पिस्कोर (Peace Corps) भन्ने एउटा प्रोग्राम अन्तरगत केही गोराहरु हाम्रो गाउमा करीब एक डेढ महिनाको लागी पेइङ गेस्ट भएर बसेका थिए। ति अग्री कन मध्य एक जना मैरे छिमेकको हजुरबाको घरमा बसेका थिए। म उनी सङ्ग आफुले "My English

Book" मा पढेको टुटे फुटेको अग्रेजी जोडेर कुरा गर्थे। अहिले सोच्दा मलाई लाग्दैन कि उसले मेरो आधा पनी कुरा बुझ्थ्यो। लेखाइ र पढाइमा हाम्रो अग्रेजी राम्रो भए पनी हाम्रो बोलाइ भने यस्तो थियो हेर्नुस एउटा सानो उदाहरण: कक्षामा हामी भन्दा पहिले सर पसिसक्नु भए को रहेछ भने यहाँ अमेरिकाको स्कुलमा जस्तो लुसुक्क कक्षामा छिड्न पाहिदैन नी नेपालका स्कुलहरुमा है। हामीले ढोकामा उभिएर "माइ किम सर" भन्नु पर्थ्यो। अनि सरले आइज भने पछि बल्ल भित्र प

स्र पाहिन्यो। हाम्रा दाजु हरुले नि त्यही भन्दै आको थिए। पछीका भाइ हरुले पनी त्यही भन्थे। हामीलाई सरले त्यही भन्नु भनेर घोकाको थियो तर के भनेको भन्ने कसैलाई थाहा थिएन। धेरै बर्ष पछी मैले त्यो त

"May I come in, sir?" भनेको रहेछ भन्ने बुझे। तर हास उठ्दो कुरो के भने म बिस बर्ष पछी त्यो स्कुलमा जादा पनी बिधार्थीले ढोकामा उभिएर उसैगरी माइ किम सर भन्दो रहेछन। सहायद अहिले सुद्ध बोल्न सिकाउनु भो कि गुरुहरुले। यस्तो थियो हाम्रो सरकारी स्कुलको अग्रेजी बोलाइ र सिकाइ। जे होस ती कुइरेलाई भने मैले साथी बनाएको थिए। उनले नेपाल आउदा र बस्दा अनुभव गरेका नौला कुराहरु मध्य सबै भन्दा झटका लागेको कुरो रहेछ हाम्रो महिलाहरु महिनावारी हुदा नछुने प्रथा। यो कुरा उनले उस्तै गरी सुनाएका थिए जसरी मैले प्रोफेसर योङको सासुको बिहेको समाचार तपाइहरुलाई सुनाए। यिनलाई झटका लागेको कुरो हाम्रो लागी भने साधरण थियो।

अब प्रसङ्ग यतैको जोडौ। भोली पल्ट प्रोफेसर योङले भनेकै बखतमा उनको अफिस पुगे। आफ्नो काम बने पछी आफुले नेपाल बाट लेराएको कोसेली उनलाई टक्राए। त्यो नेपाली कागाजमा उतारिएको सगरमाथाको एउटा चित्र हेर्ने बित्तिकै उनले "ओ माइ गड आइ लभ माउन्टेन। इट्स लभ्ली।" भनेर अफीस कै भित्तामा उतीखेरै टाङ्गे। "लभ" "माउन्टेन" ! मलाई कता कता यी सब्दहरुको सयोजन नमिले जस्तो लाग्यो। म मेरो देशलाई माया गर्छु, आमालाई माया गर्छु भने जस्तै होला कि भन्ने पनी लाग्यो। तर उनको मुहारमा आएको खुशीको चमकले भने म दङ्ग परे। हिमालकै सन्दर्भमा थप कुरा सोध्दै उनले मलाई आफ्नो रिसर्च ल्याब देखाउन बेसमेन्ट तिर लगे। त्यहा हामीले अर्का सिनीयर प्रोफेसर ब्राउन र एक जना चाइनिज पोस्ट डक सङ्ग भेटौ। ती महिला पोस्ट डकको नाम "Xi

Yayung अर्थात सीयायुङ" रहेछ। चाइनिजहरुको नाम यस्तै अठेरो हुने भएकोले उनिहरुले बिदेस आएपछी निक नेम अङ्ग्रेजीमा नै राख्दा रहेछन। जस्तो माइक, डेभ आदी आदी। तर उनलाई सबैले "सि" भन्दा रहेछेन। सि त्यतिबेला प्रोफेसर ब्राउनलाई उनले सङ्कलन गरेको रिजल्ट्स देखाउदै त्यसको बखान गर्दै थिइन। जती जती उनी नया नया ग्राफ हरु देखाउदै जान्थिन प्रोफेसर खुशी हुदै एक्सेलेन्ट एक्सेलेन्ट भन्दै जान्थे र बेला बेलामा म तिर हेर्थे। अन्तमा प्रोफेसर ले खुशीले उत्तेजीत हुदै भने "That's great Xi ! You are awesome. I love you."

यी सत्तरी बर्षका पिन्ड खाने बेलाका बुढा प्रोफेसरको यी २५ बर्षकी युबती त्यो पनी आफ्नै असीस्टेन्ट प्रेमीका! दोश्रो झटका! त्यसमाथी

सि ले "थान्कु ब्राउन" भने पछी चाही मलाइ पक्का भयो यी दुइ बिच लफडा रहेछ। नत्र आफ्नो हजुर बाको उमेरका आफ्नै प्रोफेसर लाइ नामै काटेर लेघ्रो तान्दै थान्कु भन्ने आट कसरी गरिन त यि नानीले। आफु नेपालको टि यु मा पढ्दा इलेक्ट्रोनिक्स ल्याबका एक जना अध बैसे ल्याब ब्वाइलाइ राम बहादुर जी भनेर सम्बोधन गर्दा त "के हो भा इ आफु भन्दा ठुलो मान्छे लाई जी भन्दिने। ल्याबमा पास हुने बिचार छैन कि के हो, दाइ भन्न सकिन्न?" भन्ने खालका हप्की खाएर आएको मान्छेको अगाडी आफ्नो हजुरबाको उमेरका आफ्नो सुपरभाइजरला इ यसरी जी पनी नलागाइ नामै काटेर सम्बोधन गरे पछी मेरो हालत के भो होला । यी काला प्रोफेसर ब्राउन र चामलको पिठो जस्तै गोरी चाइनिज केटीको जोडीलाइ आफुले स्वस्थानीको कथामा सुनेको ७० बर्षका बुढा शिब शर्मा र ७ बर्षकी गोमा सङ्ग तुलना पो गर्न थालेछु। फेरी म चाही यि प्रोफेसरहरुलाइ के भनेर सम्बोधन गर्ने होला त भनेर घोल्ले। योङ सर, ब्राउन सर भन्दा अली नमिले जस्तो लाग्यो। अब यो ङ जी, ब्राउन जी त झनै वाइयात लाग्यो। बरु नेपालमा खुबै इज्जत पाउने डाक्टर नै ठिक होला भनेर डाक्टर योङ, डाक्टर ब्राउन भन्ने तय गरे। आखिरी पि एच डि गरेका ति दुबै डाक्टर नै थिए ।

म कतै हराएको जस्तो लागेर प्रोफेसरले मेरो ध्यान तान्न आफ्नो रिसर्च ल्याबका महङ्गा र अत्याधुनिक प्रबिधी र उपकरणहरुको बयान गर्न थाले। अमेरिकाको सयौ यस्ता युनिभर्सिटीहरु मध्य एउटा युनिभर्सिटीको एउटा डिपार्टमेन्टको एउटा ल्याबको एउटा उपकरणको मुल्य झन्डै हाम्रो नेपालको एक मात्र बिश्वबिध्यालयको एउटै मात्र फिजीक्स डिपार्टमेन्टको बार्षिक बजेट बराबर ! एउटा आर्थिक झट्का पनी पर्यो मलाइ। तर म जसो तसो आफुलाइ सामन्य देखाउदै उनिहरुको पछी लागे।

यस्तै झट्काहरु खादै म सहज हुने क्रममा थिए। सोही सालको डिसेम्बरमा प्रोफेसर ब्राउनले हामीलाइ उनको घरमा क्रीसमस पार्टीको निम्ता दिएका थिए। जिन्दगीमा पहिलो पटक झिलीमिली सजाइएको क्रीसमस ट्री देख्दा मेरो आखा केही समय त्यही अड्की रह्यो। यती सुन्दर चिज पनी हुने रहेछ सन्सारमा भन्ने लाग्यो मलाइ। म ट्वाल्ल परेर क्रीसमस ट्री मा झुन्डाइएका गहणाहरु हेर्दै थिए कसैले पछाडी बाट "Mr. Karki, would you like to have some buffalo wings?" भनेर सोध्यो। यसो पछाडी घुमेर हेरे। मिसेस ब्राउन एउटा ट्रे मा कबाब जस्तै देखिने केही मासु लिएर म तिर आइरहेकी रहिछीन। म अलमल्ल परे। पहिलो त आफु नेपालमा बफ मोमो समेत नखाएको मान्छे। यहाँ आएर यो बफालोको मासु अर्थात भैसीको मासु कसरी खाउ? त्यसमा पनी भैसीको पखेटा पो भन्छीन। यसो यता उता हेरे स

बै जना मुख मिठ्ठाइ मिठ्ठाइ यो भैसीको पखेटा खाइरहेका देखेर मैले आ जेसुकै होस गाइको मासु हैन चाखम न त भनेर दुइटा चोक्टा आफ्नो प्लेटमा राखे। बास्तबमा पिरो बफालो ससमा लतपत पारेको यो चिकेन को पखेटा र साप्रा निकै मिठो लाग्यो। मेरो सङ्गै बसेका एक जना इटालीयन मित्रले मलाइ "Is it hot?" भनेर सोधे। मैले छैन छैन खाउ भने पछी एउटा buffalo chickenwing मुखमा काप्प हाले। एक क्षण पछी यसो हेर्छु तिनी त आखा बाट तर तर आसु काट्दै स्वा स्वा गरी राखेको पो देख्छु। के भयो पिरो भयो भनेर सोधेको त मोरो बेसरी रिसाउदै "You said it's not hot but it's very hot man!" भन्छ। के भन्छ यो इवाम भैसकेछ के हो जस्तो लाग्यो। यो तातो छ भनेर सोध्छ अनी फेरी तैले पिरो छैन भनेर भनिस भनेर उल्टो मलाइ पो गाली गर्छ बा। तर यहाँ पिरोलाइ हट (Hot) भन्छन भन्ने म बुरो लाइ के पत्तो। त्यती नै बेला प्रोफेसर ब्राउनको उही पोस्ट डक "सि" एक जना पुरुष सङ्ग देखा परीन। उनले त्यो पुरुषलाइ उनको श्रीमान भनेर चिनाए पछी म अलमल्ल परे। यता मिसेस ब्राउन, उता मिस्टर सि। के हो के हो? मिसेस ब्राउनले सि को लुगा देखाउदै "I love your dress. It's so beautiful." भन्दै गर्दा प्रोफेसर ब्राउन पनी नजिकै आएर सि को कामको तारीफ गर्न थाले। त्यस पछी मलाइ कुरो छर्लङ्ग भयो। आफुलाइ मन परेको जुनसुकै चिजलाइ पनी सजिलै आइ लभ इट र मान्छेलाइ आइ लभ यु भन्ने धेरै फरक प्रचलन पो रहेछ यहाँ। हाम्रो नेपाली स्ट्याइलको लभ पर्नु पर्ने हैन रैच के यहाँ। आफ्नो मान्छे होस कि अर्काको। आफ्नो सामान होस की अर्काको के मतलब। राम्रो लागेपछी आइ लभ यु र आइ लभ इट। आफुलाइ भने स्कुल पढ्दा आफुले भित्र भित्रै मन पराएको एउटा केटीलाइ महिनौको हिम्मत जुराएर आइ लभ यु भन्दा कक्षाभरीका केटीहरुले स्कुल ब्यागले धोबी चुटे पछी एकै पटक बल्ल बिहे पछी श्रीमतीलाइ त्यो बाक्य बोल्ने आट आएको थियो। त्यो पनी कोठामा एकलै हुदा। यस्तो महङ्गो आइ लभ यु भएको समाजबाट इवाम्म यती सस्तो आइ लभ यु भएको ठाउमा आइपुग्दा झट्का त लाग्ने नै भयो। भित्र भित्रै हेला र इश्याले जलेको भए पनी खिसीक्क हासेर आइ लभ इट र आइ लभ यु भन्ने यस्तो प्रचलन आजकल नेपालमा पनी आइसकेछ। खासगरी युवा युवतीहरु माझ। अब त आफुलाइ पनी बानी परिसक्यो। बास्तबमा आइ लभ दिस कल्चर नाउ !!!

"याहाको चलन त्याहाको चलन मिल्दैन कसैनी चलाउदा चलन राम्रो नै हुन्छ जहाँ सुकै बसेनी"

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



Srijana Nepal

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 deusires 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 fragrance
Little 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, A Beautiful Country



Eliza Acharya

Nepal is a wonderous country nestled between China and India. In Nepal, there are 3 specific regions and those are Himad, Pahad, and Tarai. The Himad 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





languages.

There are many influential people that were born in Nepal. Among those people, some



include Skrinkhala Katiwada, Anushka Shrestha, Anuradha Koirala, Pushpa Basnet, Tenzing Norgay, and Buddha. Shrinkhala Khatiwada is Miss Nepal 2018 and Anushka Shrestha is Miss Nepal 2019. These women have tremendous accomplishments in either re-



mote villages that were impoverished. These

two women lead large projects and Shrinkhala 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 or-



ganization 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.



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

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.

Community Activities



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



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



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 thank all parents for their support in the coordination of Pathsala. The ceremony started with worshipping (Puja) of Bidya ki khhani, 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 Shivank 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 'Padhna aayeu Nepali Pathsala..'Eliza Acharya performed single and Kripa, Anushika, and Niva also performed group dance in nepali songs.



**Orlando Pathshala ,
 Nepale Center of Orlando (NCCO) is organizing Nepali
 Pathshala in every 2nd and 4th of Sunday everymonth.**



Opening Ceremony of Nepali Pathshala "Gainesville"

Goddess Swasthani and her eight forms

ॐ 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 ! ॐ



NAF Upcoming Events Highlights



Nepali Community Picnic
Date: April 11, 2020, Saturday
Hosted By: Jacksonville Chapter

We are on the web
www.floridanepalese.org

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अन्तिम पातो

INDRENI

Wish You All a Very Happy and Prosperous
New Year 2020

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

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Email us: info@floridanepalese.org



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