

Namaste!



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KATHMANDU CAFE

For
Nepalese Food
Saturday Market, Portland

Volume 3 No. 1

P.O.Box 90581, Portland, OR 97290

April 1997

Nepalese New Year 2054 BS

We would like to express our best wishes and compliments to all Nepalese and the friends of Nepal on the auspicious occasion of the New year 2054 BS that begins on April 14th, 1997. May the spirit of friendship flourish among each other and strengthen it for peace and harmony throughout the year 2054. Have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Losar Celebration

There was a celebration of Losar, the Tibetan New Year, held at the Guta residence, Portland on the full moon in February. Traditional Tibetan and Nepali foods, including the much loved momos were served. Prayer flags, blowing blessings to everyone were hung on the front porch and lamps and incense were lit in honor of the occasion. Traditional Nepali folk songs and dancing followed the meal. A good time was shared by every body.

Sister Relationship between NWR, Portland and WEPCO, Nepal

Northwest Women in Recycling (NWR) has formed a sister relationship with a women's environmental organization called WEPCO in Patan, Nepal. WEPCO is innovative in that they encourage people to reuse and recycle. They strongly discourage the use of plastic and have also begun a type of door to door garbage pick up service that is truly unique to the area. WEPCO also encourages women to participate in environmental issues. NWR is supporting WEPCO by helping to fund their newsletter 'Mahila Abhiyan' and offering encouragement and advice.

12th Asian Celebration

The 12th Asian Celebration, was held in February 16 and 17 in Eugene

Oregon this year. In order to highlight the celebration, Namaste invited Master Indra Lal Shrestha from Maryland to perform traditional Nepalese folk music. His spectacular performance of 'Madal' thrilled the audiences. He also displayed his skill by playing several kinds of cymbals used in Nepalese music such as Bhusya, Chusya, Mujura and Tinchhu in recorded music of the Dhimay and Dholak drums to represent the musical sounds from Nepal. On the same occasion, Sruti Aryal and Rosy Mali from Tillamook High School and Amita Malakar from University of Oregon also performed the Nepali folk dances. Namaste congratulates them for their enthusiastic participation and gracious presentation of Nepalese culture during such an august gathering of Asian culture.

Vijaya Malla in Town

The well known Nepali poet, dramatist and novelist Mr. Vijaya Bahadur Malla, along with his wife, visited Oregon via Wisconsin on the way back to their homeland. He was associated with the Royal Nepal Academy (RNA) for 20 years. During this period he worked as the member secretary and later he became the vice-chancellor of the academy. In his honor Uma and Kusha Shrestha organized an informal get together at their residence in Salem on Feb. 28th. At this occasion he was congratulated by all the party goers for the announcement that he had been honored with the Bhupal Man Singh Award for his contributions to the Nepali literature. Many of his poems have been translated into English. Please find an interview with him on the next page.

Nepali Cuisine Booth

The Mali family has shown tremendous amount of participation in the 12th Asian celebration by setting up a Nepali cuisine booth where they prepared kukhurako maasu (chicken) and bhat (rice) or with bandako tarkakari (cabbage

curry) and with mouth watery achar (condiment). This was the first time of Nepali cuisine had been presented at the Asian Celebration in Eugene. Namaste thanks Helen Ward and her colleagues for their participation. It turned out to be an excellent contribution in representing the Nepali community at the celebration.

PSU Publishes Padma Ratna Tuladhar's Interview

In the current issue of The Himalayan Research Bulletin (HRB) a newsletter from the Nepal studies association, the geography Department at Portland state University (PSU) has published an interview with a controversial political figure of the Kathmandu valley Mr. Padma Ratna Tuladhar. In the interview Mr. Tuladhar expressed his thoughts about his participation in Nepalese politics, and he clarified his position on the slaughter of cows in Nepal. He also expressed his goals to lead the Nepal Bhasha Manka Khalah, a leading organization to promote the language and culture of Newars. If you would like to have a copy of the bulletin please contact the editor of the bulletin by voice mail @ (503) 725-8044. The bulletin costs \$ 5.00 each, or \$20 for annual subscription. The bulletin is helpful in that it explains who is doing what in the field of studies on Nepal.

Condolence Message

Daya Shakya expresses his heartfelt thanks to those who have sent condolence messages due to his father Reverend Moti Kaji Shakya's demise on Nov. 9th, 1997 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Reverend Shakya was 84 years old. He was a well known metal engraving craftsman and the fifth senior sthavira (monk) of the Itum Bahal Shakya Sangha.

Bhupal Man Singh Award

The Bhupal Man Singh Karki Academy has decided to honor writer and scholar Vijaya Malla with the Bhupal Man Singh Karki Award for his contributions to Nepalese literature.

A meeting of the academy held under the chairmanship of Bhupal Man Singh Karki made this decision in February, 1997. The award, along with letter of commendation, carries a award of Rs. 250,000 (\$5000).

The meeting also decided to confer P. Pokharel with the Bhupal Man Singh Youth Award and Ms Rama Singh with the Bhupal Man Singh Karki- Bhuma Karki Youth Award, according to a press release issued by the academy.

New Cabinet in Nepal

Mr. Lokendra Bahadur Chanda has been appointed as the new prime minister of Nepal by the King Birendra. Mr. Chand is the leader of nationalist RPP party. He must seek a vote of confidence in parliament within a month in order to run the government. His cabinet consists of 8 ministers. They are Mr. Bamdev Gautam, Mr. Rabindra Nath Sharma, Mrs. Sahana Pradhan, Mr. Radha Krishna Mainali, Mr. Amrit Bohara, Mr. Gajendra Narayan Singh, and Mr. Rameswar Raya Yadav.

Grants and Contributions

We would like to thank the Asian Council and the Eugene/ Kathmandu Sister City Foundation in Eugene for contributing the sum of \$200 and \$100 respectively the funds were used to purchase an airline ticket so that master drummer Indra Lal Shrestha of Maryland could be invited to represent Nepal in the 12th Asian Celebration. Our thanks also goes to Mr. Binod Kansakar, Yam Bahadur Pun and Diwakar Maharjan for their contributions to invite Mr. Shrestha.

Mr. Shrestha is a well known musician particularly in drum and tabla. He has played drums for many recordings heard on Radio Nepal and the Ratna music recording corporation. He was also a comedian in several Nepali movies. He taught music at the campus of Fine arts in Kathmandu.

Since moving to the US seven years ago he has been very dedicated to keep Nepalese musical heritage alive. He is also the director of the Phoolbari Cultural Group in Maryland where he is a reliable resource to organize Nepalese musical entertainment.

America-Nepal Society, Portland?

We all know that Nepalese community in Portland is small but yet its existence is permanent. Keeping this in mind, an urgency to form an association to deal with America and Nepal relationship with a goal to promote a variety of activities in Portland is evident. Unfortunately, none of us have been working towards this direction. Maybe the time was not right. Perhaps now is the right time. Let's form an association. We request for an input in this regard from American and Nepalese individuals. Please contact Jagadish Mathema @ 452-8031 or Daya Shakya @777-4593 for details.

Mr. and Mrs. Mathema in TV Interview

Mr. Jagadish and Mrs. Sri Laxmi Mathema were interviewed by Ms. Lydia McCarter on behalf of the Baha'i's perspective program that was broadcasted in February.

Most of the questions were focused on the status of women in Nepal, the world conference on women in Beijing, and religion and culture in Nepal. In response to one of the questions, being a man why he was chosen to attend the women's conference, he said that he was working as the executive director of the center for woman and development (CWD) at that time. He was there also to present the publication entitled Network that was published as a souvenir to coincide with the conference. In response to another question he explained the various training programs conducted by the CWD for women to improve their status.

During the interview, Mr. Mathema said that the Beijing conference was a milestone and it showed the solidarity of Women in

the world. Following the Beijing conference many countries have undertaken interest in woman issues. In Nepal, a separate ministry for woman's affairs has been formed. Mr. Mathema emphasized that the women's issue is not a matter to be solved in a couple of days. It is a process of continuity. He ended his interview by quoting the great American poet Robert Frost "For, I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep."

Similarly, Mrs. Mathema was also questioned on the present condition of Women in Nepal, Nepalese custom and the significance of putting the red tika on the forehead.

New Years in Nepal

Losar is just one of several New Years celebrated in Nepal. Many ethnic groups have their own calendar year. So the dates may vary considerably. Most of the New Years begin at the full moon phase of a particular month every month. The Kathmandu Valley people celebrate the Nepal sambat New Year every year on the new moon day in November. This is now the year 1117.

Many city dwellers now celebrate the western New Year on January with their foreign friends or on their own as part of the rapidly changing cultural norms. Tibetans celebrate their own New Year called Losar. It is a time of great feasting, drinking and praying.

Lastly, the Nepalese also celebrate their another New Year according to the official calendar every April 14th. In this occasion people take a bath in holy rivers, offer pujas (Religious Ceremonies) and eat special foods. You can celebrate the New Year 4 times in 5 months in Nepal. Now that's an auspicious beginning to the New Year of your choice!

Time to Get Involved

Namaste is looking to expand it to reach to the Nepalese and friends of Nepal community. There are many connections to people and places of Nepal here in Oregon. and we are interested in strengthening those ties. Also we want to bring our friends here in Oregon closer by sharing stories,

साहित्यकार विजय मल्लसंग केही क्षण An Interview with Mr. Vijaya Malla

प्र:- अमेरिका भ्रमणको उद्देश्य के पर्यो नि यहां को ?

उ:- विशेष कारण त केही छैन । मेरा छोरीहरू अमेरिकामा बस्छन् - माडीशन. विस्कन्सीन र सेलम, ओरेगनमा । उनिहरूलाई भेट्न आएको मात्र हो । अर्को एउटा कारण के थियो भने मेरी अर्की छोरीलाई यहां बस्न पाउने हरियो कागजको चिठ्ठा परेको थियो । त्यसैले उसलाई यहां पु-चाउनु र अरु दुई छोरीहरूलाई भेट्न आएको हो र उता माडिशनमा बस्व धेरै चीसो भएकोले मेरो जीउ पनि ठिक भएन । अनि यहां सेलम बस्ने छोरी (डा. उमा श्रेष्ठ), ज्वाइ र नातिनीहरूलाई पनि भेट्ने र अलि न्यानो ठाउँमा बस्न पाए जीउ ठिक हुने जस्तो देखिएकोले यता आएको हो । यहां तपाईंसंग परिचय गर्न पाउंदा मलाई खुशी लागेको छ ।

प्र:- उता माडिशनमा पनि नेपाली कम्युनिटी होला र त्यहां पनि यसरी नै त्यताका नेपालीहरूसंग भेटघाट भयो कि भएन र कस्तो लाग्यो ?

उ:- माडिशनमा पनि नेपाली समाज त छ तर यहां जस्तो राम्रो र ठूलो छ त भन्न सकिन्न । उता नेपाली भाषा पढाउने डा. कृष्ण प्रधान मेरी छोरीको भिनाजु हुनुहुन्छ । वहांले मलाई अरु नेपालीहरूसंग चिनाजाना गराउनु भयो । यता उता घुमाउनु भयो युनिभर्सिटी लाइब्रेरीमा पनि लानु भयो । त्यहां पनि नेपाली पुस्तकहरू राखेको रहेछ मैले लेखेका पुस्तकहरू पनि देख्दा एक प्रकारको खुशी लाग्यो ।

प्र:- अमेरिका बस्ने नेपालीहरूको गतिबिधि त केही मात्रामा अबगत भयो नै होला र यहाँ एक बरिष्ठ नेपाली साहित्यकार र समाजका एक श्रष्टाको हैसियतले यताका नेपालीहरूलाई के सल्लाह या सुझाव दिनु हुन्छ नि ?

उ:- विदेशमा आएर बसे पछि विदेशी स्वभाव र रहन सहनमा हेलमेल हुनै पर्छ । त्यो स्वाभाविक नै हो त्यसो गर्न सकेन भने निकै गाह्रो हुन्छ । त्यसो भएता पनि आफ्नो देशको मौलिकता भने अवश्य पनि प्रयोग गर्नु पर्छ । त्यसरी मौलिकता प्रयोग गर्दा यहाँ विदेशमा पनि मौलिकता सार्न सक्छ । मलाई जहांसम्म लाग्छ हिमालयका केही जडीबुटी जस्तै संजीवनी बुटी यहां पनि छर्न सकेमा यहां पनि फलन सक्छ । यसलाई प्रतीकको रूपमा प्रयोग गरिरहेको छु । त्यसैले यहाँका नेपालीहरूले पनि यस्तै संजीवनी बुटी छरेर प्रयोग गरे, नेपालको केही अंश यहां पनि प्रयोगमा ल्याउन सके, यो ठाउँ पनि नेपाल जस्तै महान र उच्च कोटीको हुन सक्छ । यस्को प्रयोगले

नेपाललाई पनि धेरै महत्त्व पुऱ्याउन सक्छ ।

प्र:- नेपाली साहित्यमा विजय मल्ल को हो भनेर सोध्दा न चिन्ने व्यक्ती सायद नै पाईएला तर बिदेशी नेपाली समाजमा यहाँलाई धेरै ले नचिन्नेको हुन सक्छ । त्यसैले यहाँको साहित्यिक जीवनको पृष्ठभूमि अबगत गराउन म यहाँ साहित्यसित सम्बन्धीत केही प्रश्नहरू प्रस्तुत गर्न चाहन्छु । आशा छ यहाँ ले अनुमती दिनु हुने नै छ । मेरो पहिलो प्रश्न के छ भने कसको प्रेरणाबाट लेख्न थाल्नु भयो कोही व्यक्ती वा परिवेशको प्रेरणाबाट ?

उ:- शाक्यजी ! वास्तवमा भन्ने हो भने । मेरो स्वभावै भनुं या परिवेश । मेरो परिवारमा मेरा बाजे बीर बाहादुर, बा: ऋद्धि बहादुर र दाई गोविन्द बाहादुर सबै जना साहित्य प्रेमी थिए । मेरो बा ले त 'शारद' नाउंको मासिक पत्रिका नै चलाउनु भएको थियो । त्यसताका नेपाली साहित्यका गन्य मान्य व्यक्तिहरू जस्तै लेखनाथ पौड्याल, बालकृष्ण सम, पुष्कर समशेर, गुरु प्रसाद मैनाली, काजी दाई (सिद्धिचरण श्रेष्ठ) लक्ष्मी प्रसाद देवकोटा आदी आदी व्यक्तिहरूको हाम्रो जोरगणेश प्रेसमा आवत जावत भई रहन्थ्यो । मैले देवकोटाको 'मुनामदन' पहिलो चोटि प्रकाशित हुनु भन्दा अगाडी मेरो बालाई सुनाउनु भएको देवकोटाकै मुखबाट सुन्ने मौका पाएको थिए । त्यति खेर म ८,९ वर्ष को थिए । यस्तै सर्कल या परिवेशमा मेरो दाई र म हुर्केका थियौं । यसो हुंदा हुंदै मैले धेरैजना लेखकहरूलाई चिन्ने मौका पाए । काजिदाई त बा:संग मिलेर 'शारद' मासिक प्रकाशित गर्ने काममा सहयोगी भएका थिए । यसरी हर बखत साहित्यिकहरूको परिवेशमा म हुर्केको हुंदा उनिहरूले लेखेका कृतिहरू पढ्ने र सुन्ने मौका पाईयो । यो मेरो निम्ती शौभाग्यको कुरो हो । यस परिवेशमा एउटा ठूलो घटना घटेको थियो । त्यो के हो भने म सार्ने उमेरदेखि सान-साना कागजका टुक्रा (चुरोटको बट्टा)मा मनमा लागेका कुराहरू कविताका रूपमा लेख्ने गर्थे र कोटको खल्लोमा हाली राख्थे । एक दिन बा: ले 'के हो त्यो पोको ?' भन्दै सोध्नुभयो । मैले खोलेर देखाइ दिएपछि गालि गरे जस्तो गरी सल्ला दिनु भयो । अनि एउटा ठूलो कापी ठम्याई दिनुभयो र ती टुक्रा कागजमा लेखेका सबै सारेर राख्न आग्रह गर्नुभयो । पछि टुक्रा कागजमा लेखेर कापीमा सार्ने बानी बस्यो । यतिखेर त्यो कापी भएको भए ठूलो महत्त्व को हुने हो । त्यो कापि हरायो । अत्तो पत्तो पाईएन । कहां राखे थाहै पाईएन । अहिले पनि त्यो कापिको रंग र आकार प्रकार झलझल याद आउंछ ।

यसरी आफ्नै प्रेस पनि भएको हुनाले कतिपय साहित्यकारहरूका कृतिहरू पढ्ने मौका पनि पाईयो । गोर्खा भाषा प्रकाशन समितिबाट महाभारत पुस्तक छाप ल्याएको थियो । त्यही सिलसिलामा मैले महाभारत पढ्ने मौका पाएको थिए । यी सबै घटनाहरूबाट म ज्यादै नै प्रभावित भए । क्रमशः...

funny cultural misunderstandings and short biographies of people who are active in the community. Among the many residents here are those who run import business, introduce shoppers to fine Nepali food at the Saturday market, support a recycling organization in Patan, educate and educated at Oregon Universities, sell appliances, teach tae-kwon-do and on and on. In the coming newsletters we will profile some of you and share experiences. However we want to hear from you too. Do you have a funny story about cultural misunderstandings? (In Kathmandu, I used to hang my underwear out on the light to dry, much to the consternation of my land lord and probably much to tell the amusement of the neighbors, I'm sure. I was oblivious to this cultural error until some one kindly pointed it out to me) Is there some one doing good work for the community that we should know about ? Let us know and call Diane Frank at 335-3962 to share your thought and ideas.

New Nepalese Faces

We are happy to introduce some new faces to the Nepalese community in Oregon. This time we have Mr. Shuny Karki, another tae-kwon-do expert in Salem, Mr. Atul Bhattacharai, an engineer and Miss Paro Lama, a student in Portland. Namaste

welcomes their arrival to the Nepalese Community in Oregon and encourages them to participate in the local activities to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of Nepal.

Mark Your Calendar !

Namaste wants to let you know that with warm weather our annual picnics and get-togethers will return. Set aside the 4th of July and Labor Day in September as we'll meet to catch up on each others news, eat delicious Nepali food, play games with the children and promote our community! Do you want to help plan the events ? We could use all the ideas and hands available. Please call Diane Frank at 335-3962.

Sponsorships

This issue of Namaste has been financed by the Eugene/Kathmandu Sister City Foundation Eugene, Oregon. Our many thanks to Bob Bowman and Coral Mack who have shown their keen interest in publishing this newsletter for Nepalese and friends of Nepal community in Oregon. Our thanks also go to Mr. Karl Hertzell, Eugene and Michael Burke of Portland for their contribution to cover other expenses. This is our newsletter. It needs support from all of us. Please help Namaste to keep it going.

New Year Greetings

Wishing You All
A Very Happy
And Prosperous
New Year 2054.

Namaste!

Contribution to Namaste!

Yes, I would like to contribute \$.....(.....dollars) for the up-coming projects and printing costs of **Namaste**. Please include me in your mailing list.

Name:.....

Address:.....

Editor: *Daya Shakya* Advisor: *Diane Frank* Graphic Design: *Y.B. Pun*

Namaste! नमस्ते

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Stamp
Here