

## Dasain 2003



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# Namaste!

The Official Newsletter of the Nepali Association of Oregon

Vol. 10, No. 17 Fall 2003

## Ramjham Sanjha

On August 8, 2003, NAO hosted the Ramjham Sanjha, a cultural program consisting of folk and modern Nepali songs, as well as comic skits, at the Portland State University. The President of NAO Daya Shakya welcomed guest artists and audience at the Ramjham Sanjha. The program was brought to Portland in support of Helping Hands Health Education Organization based in Boulder, Colorado. 247 Nepalis and their friends from the northwest regions, including Washington and Idaho, enjoyed the show. It featured famous Nepali singers like Ram Krishna Dhakal, Kunti Moktan and the comic duo of Madan Krishna Shrestha and Hari Bansha Acharya, including a singer, Sarana Shrestha. Another famous singer, Nabin Bhattarai, was

scheduled to appear at the show, but had to unexpectedly return to Kathmandu because of the untimely demise of his father, Mukunda Bhattarai. We express our deepest sympathy and condolence to Nabin Bhattarai and his family.

On a happy note, the show got off to a melodic start with Ram Krishna Dhakal's beautiful songs. It was a perfect set up for the artist Kunti Moktan, whose modern-folk songs lifted audiences off their seats and onto their feet. During the middle of the program, a new singer (also the daughter of Madan Krishna Shrestha), Sarana Shrestha, performed beautiful songs. She mentioned that Portland felt much more like Kathmandu than any other cities they have been on the tour.

The highlights of Ramjham Sanjha



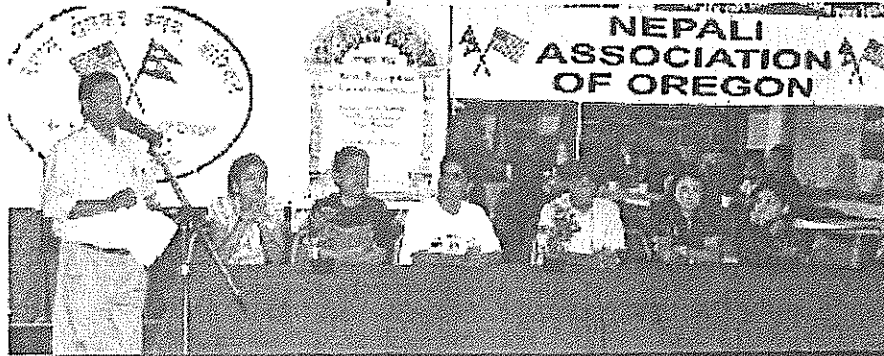
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were the two comic presentations by the famous MAHA group- Madan Krishna Shrestha and Hari Bansha Acharya. A duet song (chorus) called "Dohari Geet" was a classic piece that will be remembered by the Nepali community of Oregon for a long time to come. The duet song dramatized the act of courtship and flirting between a middle-aged man played by Madan Krishna Shrestha and a middle-aged woman played by Hari Bansha Acharya. They were supported by a young group of local talents: Sameer Bhattarai, Yogesh Khanal, Roji Malakar and Amisha Bhattarai. The evening was brought to a closure with the Airport skit featuring the MAHA duo. They depicted the hilarious events between a Nepali traveler and a British immigration official at the London International Airport. Even though the show had to be cut short, we hope everyone in the audience enjoyed the night, in true Nepali style with laughter and entertainment.

NAO is very grateful to have the support of 70 community members, who financially committed to bring the artists to Portland. It would not have been possible without their help. We are also very appreciative of our guests who came to enjoy the show from Boise and Seattle. Our special gratitude goes to Kusha Bhattarai for his efforts to bring the artists to Portland. We also would like to thank Shristi Bhattarai for making the Smith Auditorium Ballroom at Portland State University available and for being the MC of the program. She did a wonderful job. NAO would also like to extend its appreciation to local Nepali families who hosted lunches, dinners, and lodging for our visiting artists. And our heartfelt thanks goes to all of you who volunteered to make the show a grand success.

Our special thanks to Dibesh Shrestha, Niraj Shrestha and Kabir Pradhan for their help in managing the sound system and the stage.



The income and expenditure of the show are as follows:

Income	Rate	Counts	Total
Committed Patrons	\$40	70	\$2,800.00
General Admission	\$20	80	\$1,600.00
Students	\$10	60	\$600.00
Seattle Group	\$10	37	\$592.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>247</b>	<b>\$5,592.00</b>

Expenses	Total
Contribution To Helping Hands	\$2,500.00
Sound System	\$410.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$446.72
Money Returned to Committed	\$475.00
Total Expenses	\$3,831.72
<b>Net Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1750.28</b>

## Artist Reception and Farewell

On behalf of NAO, the executive committee member, Shuddhodan Ranjit, hosted a potluck dinner on August 6 at his residence in honor of visiting artists of the *Ranjham Sangha*. Thank you Shuddhodan and Rita Ranjit for hosting the dinner reception.

Similarly, on August 12, a farewell party was organized for the visiting artists at the US West Coast Taekwondo School in Hollywood. During this occasion, Madan Krishana and Hari Bansa Acharya expressed their appreciation to the Nepali community of Portland for their generous hospitality. At the reception, NAO president Daya Shakyra presented the artists good wishes and thank you cards signed by community members present at the reception. He thanked them for their excellent program and willingness to meet the Nepali community members of Oregon.

## Interview with the Artists

Namaste will publish the interview with the artists in its next issue. Artists will discuss their experiences and contributions to the development of Nepali comedy and pop culture.

## Summer Picnic 2003

NAO organized the annual summer picnic at Oaks Park on June 21, 2003. In spite of the down pouring rains, the attendees of the picnic enjoyed the gathering and a variety of food and barbecue. Unfortunately, various planned sports had to be cancelled due to the rain. However, the tug

of war was not canceled, and it was a lot of fun. A total of 111 people attended the picnic.

A total of \$910.77 was collected from the picnic

participants, including \$103.77 in donation for the purchase of the supplies. The total expenses, including the park and service rental was \$995.09 with the net loss of \$85.32. Our thanks to Kanhaiya and Narvada Vaidya for providing delicious ice cream. We also want to thank India Palace

and Seattle Space Needle Restaurant for providing gift certificates.

## Dasain 2003 Celebration

The annual Dasain party was organized on October 11 at the Highland Park Middle School in Beaverton, Oregon. The event brought together community members to celebrate the festivals of *Dasain* and *Tihar*. In the welcome speech delivered by the President of NAO, Daya Shakyra, greeted all the guests on the auspicious occasion of the *Vijaya Dashami*. He also thanked Anupama Shrestha and Sagar Onta for their help in coordinating the event. About 149 community members attended the program, including American friends and families.

NAO would like to thank Raju and Minu Mali for preparing the delicious Nepali food for the party. Special thanks to the first lady Jayashri Shakyra, who worked to make sure everyone had eaten before she even took her first bite. NAO presented the OMSI family trip tickets to

Raju Mali as a token of appreciation for his voluntary catering of the food.

The kids were entertained with a clown making balloons. They also participated in helping to draw the lucky winners for the raffle prizes which included chocolates, gift certificates for Baskin Robbins, complimentary dinner at Bali Restaurant, Gifts From Afar, Thamel.com, Kathmandu store gifts, and tickets to OMSI.

The highlight of the cultural program of the evening was a presentation of traditional Nepali tune of *Malashree dhar* on a flute by Dillu Thapa. This was a great way to bring the spirit of the *Dashain* season alive. There were many beautiful performances including dances from Manisha Shrestha and Dipita Thapa. A piece of karaoke by Dillu Thapa thrilled the audience and Mitch Haas's song also got the audience clapping with enthusiasm. The beautiful vocal songs presented by Simrik Tuladhar, Shashindra Bajracharya and Tara Karki captured the audiences. The folk chorus song (*Dohari*) presented by members of Thapa family (Dillu, Sunita, Birendra and Laxmi) along with Tara Karki and Hari Ranabhat was great. The Ganga Bhattarai's comic skit was another highlight of the program. Daya Shakya also recited a poem about experiences of his life. We would like to thank Dibesh Shrestha for making the sound system work well. Helen Ward made an announcement about the Nepali language class.

NAO expresses sincere appreciation to following individuals for their assistance in decorating the hall and setting up the stage: Bikas Maharjan and Suva Ratna Shakya, Niraj Shrestha and Kabir Pradhan. In addition, NAO also appreciates the Mali family and everyone who volunteered to set up and serve the food.

A total of \$1608 was raised from the admission fees. The total cost of the program was \$1263. NAO expresses its gratitude to all individuals and businesses who made donations or sponsored gift certificates for the *Dashain* celebration party.



## Nepali Culture Show at Sauvie Island

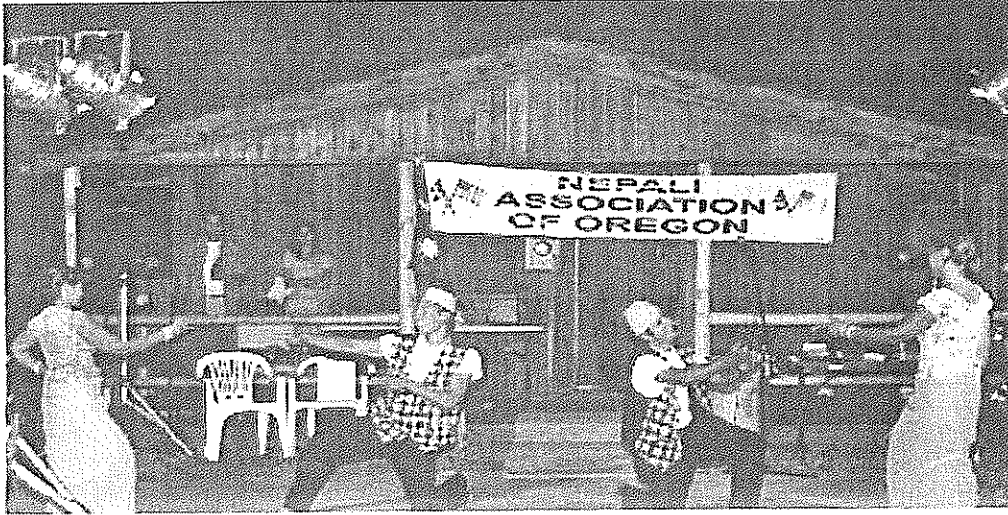
After witnessing the exemplary Himalayan Night show organized by NAO in the summer of 2002, Dave Molinari requested NAO to put together a cultural program for his friends in his ranch in Sauvie Island. Daya Shakya, with the help of Bal Krishna Joshi, organized the show. The talented artists of the community were able to perform with only a few hours of rehearsal. The show featured songs and dances by Laxman Darlamtee, Minu Mali, Roji Malakar, Sudip Shakya, Dipa Malakar, Sandeep Paudyal, Devi Mears, Bal Krishna Joshi, Suva Shakya, Shashindra Bajracharya, Kebin Maharjan and last but not the least, Dillu Thapa. It should be noted that Dave especially requested that the song *Deusi Re* be performed. Dillu Thapa, who was in Utah prior to the show, cut his vacation short to perform *Deusi* song. NAO thanks Dillu Thapa and his family for their dedication in making the program successful. The masters of the ceremony were Bhima Shakya and Sagar Onta, who did an outstanding job of engaging the audience by quizzing them on facts about



Nepal in between the songs. At the end of the show, the audience danced and learned to dance to Nepali songs.

NAO was able to generate an income of \$1,351 from the show through contributions from Dave and his friends. The expenses of the show were \$202, resulting in a net profit of \$1,149.

Our thanks to Dave Molinari for giving us the opportunity to



result of the soccer activities from last year, a good number of players showed up during the three matches. NAO encourages all of you to participate in and support the games, and other such recreational sports activities in our community.

Show at Sauvie Island

perform and showcase our talents and cultural heritage. Our sincere gratitude to all the artists and volunteers who helped put the show together. You can view the pictures of the show at:

[http://dave.molinari.addr.com/Nepali\\_Party.htm](http://dave.molinari.addr.com/Nepali_Party.htm)

NAO is very impressed with the willingness of our artists in organizing a cultural program with only a few hours of practice. Such a program promotes Nepali culture and highlights our contributions to the Oregon community. With the support of the artists, NAO would like to continue organizing such programs in the future.

## Soccer Matches/Bhakundo Khel

This year, three friendship soccer matches were organized between our community teams in Portland and Seattle on July 12, August 9 and 31. As a

result of the soccer activities from last year, a good number of players showed up during the three matches. NAO encourages all of you to participate in and support the games, and other such recreational sports activities in our community.

## NW Nepali Picnic at Seattle

NAO thanks the members of the Nepal Seattle Society (NSS) for hosting the 2nd Annual North West Nepali Picnic at the Lake Sammamish Park on August 31, 2003. During the picnic, Madhu Acharya (President, Vancouver BC Nepali community), Ravi Rana (President, Nepal Seattle Society) and Daya Shakya had exchanged views on different issues relating to Nepali communities in the Northwest region. On behalf of NAO, Daya Shakya greeted the guests, host members and attendants. He also announced that the NAO would host the third annual picnic during the Labor Day weekend in 2004. The Oregon group included 18 individuals at the picnic. NAO appreciates the time and efforts of our community members who took part in the fun filled picnic in Seattle.

## Mhapooja and Wedding

On October 26, 2003, the third annual *Mhapooja* ceremony was organized on the occasion of Tihar and Nepal Sam bat New year 1124 at the US West Coast Taekwondo School at Hollywood. It was attended by 55 individuals including American friends and families. Attending participants exchanged greetings of *bhintuna* by receiving *sagoon* and *tikaa* after the *Mandala pooja*.

On the same occasion, a *Swayambar*-wedding ceremony was also conducted for Kishor Shrestha and Sabina Rajbhandari, the Taekwondo players of Bellingham, Washington. The attended guests congratulated the newly wedded couple. The ceremony was followed by a delicious traditional *samaya baji* potluck feast. The organizers of the ceremony extend their appreciation to all those who participated in the pooja and potluck.

## NAO News

### Membership Fee

At the executive meeting held on July 6, 2003, the NAO decided to begin accepting membership fees from all interested individuals of Nepalese community and friends of Nepal. The registered members will get special benefits at all the programs organized and sponsored by the NAO. We encourage all of you to officially become part of the NAO and join us to build a better and stronger Nepali community. Any interested individuals can fill out the enclosed membership form and send it back to us with a payment to the NAO treasurer Hari Ranabhat. We will acknowledge your membership when we receive your form and payment.

## NAO Sound System

It is with great pleasure that NAO announces the purchase of a sound system worth \$1,100 to enhance the quality of our shows. In the past, NAO has rented such system at a cost of as much as \$400/show. We hope to break even on the investment in about a year. NAO is also exploring the potential to rent the system to various organizations in town in hopes of generating some income from the investment. The system will also be made available for NAO members at discounted rental prices. The current NAO sound system includes: One 300 Watts rms/channel amplifier, One 22 channel mixer with 24bit Digital Effects processor, two 600 watt rms/1200 watt peak 2 way speakers with two 15 inch woofer and a horn tweeter, two wireless microphones along with necessary cables and two microphone stands with one boom. NAO is much obliged to Dibesh (Dave) Shrestha for volunteering his time to research and order a system with the "the best bang-for-the-buck" for cash strapped NAO. He has agreed to be the custodian for the system. If you are interested in renting or helping out with the system, please contact Sagar Onta or Dibesh (Dave) Shrestha.

## Nepali Language Class

NAO is very committed to see that our young children learn Nepali language so it will be an asset to his or her future growth. We are always ready to offer help. Let us hear from you as to what course of action we should be taking. We just do not want our youngsters to be deprived of the significant part of our cultural heritage—the language. If you are

interested in the program, please contact Arupama Shrestha (503) 524-7315.

## Survey Report

During the summer picnic this year, we passed out a survey form to collect community members' opinion on a variety of issues relating to current as well as future activities of the NAO. Since we were only able to get a few responses, we encourage you to take a moment to fill out the enclosed survey form and send it back to us. Your opinions are very important to us as it will help guide our planning of future events. The result of the survey will be published in future Namaste publication as well as in our website: [www.nepalobregon.org](http://www.nepalobregon.org).

## International Film Festival

NAO has received a letter of request from the North west Film Center to sponsor a Nepali movie for the 27th International Film Festival which will be held from February 13 to 28, 2004. According to the Center, around 100 films from 30 different countries will be screened during the festival. We encourage all of you to take this opportunity to experience the different cultures of the participating countries. NAO is currently considering the prospect of sponsoring a Nepali film at the festival. We will post further information on the NAO website once the details have been finalized.

## Letter from the President

Last month we celebrated two festivals: 2060 *Bada Dashain* and *Tihar*. I hope everyone had a good time with their friends and families during these auspicious occasions. I am positive that this tradition of celebrating Nepali festivals in Portland will, in some small way, fulfill the emptiness created by being away from your loved ones

in Nepal. NAO will continue to work hard to make these gatherings a splendid experience each year. May the almighty goddesses *Durga Bhawani* and *Maha Laxmi* bless us all with prosperity and good health all year.

Since the formation of the new NAO executive committee last April, NAO has successfully organized the Summer picnic, the *Ramjham Sanjha* cultural show, the Summer picnic, the *Dashain* celebration and the publication of Namaste Newsletter. These events would not have been successful without the help of my fellow dedicated members of the committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support and hard work in making these NAO events successful. To make NAO stronger, we will implement the membership drive, and collect more survey forms from the community in order to undertake worthy projects in the upcoming years. I would also like to thank all of you for the support you have given to NAO. We hope to see you all again at the upcoming events.

- Daya Shakya

## Outstanding Volunteer Recognition

At the executive meeting held on July 6, 2003, the need to recognize an outstanding volunteer was brought up. The committee unanimously chose Roji Malakar for the award. Roji Malakar's participation and commitment to the promotion of Nepali culture in local communities has been remarkable. Since 1996, Roji has been actively presenting Nepali folk dances in many of our cultural programs. She was also invited as a guest artist in many other festivals and celebrations

including Asian Celebration in Eugene (1996, 1998, 2003), the Kathmandu Night in San Francisco, CA (2001), and the New Year celebration in Seattle, WA (2002). She was one of the key performers in the Himalayan Night (2002) and Dave Molinari's party (2003). She made a pleasant contribution to the *Ramjham Sanyha* (2003). She has also presented Nepali folk dances in the Asian Heritage festival in Downtown Portland (2001) and the Asian Reporter's volunteer recognition banquet and so on. In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the community, Roji will be awarded with a cash prize and a certificate at a future NAO event. We have also made a commitment to recognize outstanding individuals in the community for their voluntary contributions.



You can read the article at:

[www.iicd.org/base/home](http://www.iicd.org/base/home)  
under the winning stories  
section.

Roji Malakar

## Marriages

Our community member, Amit Aryal of Keizer married Sristi Bhandari of Kathmandu in July 2003. Another member, Sunny Bee of Portland married Nilam Shrestha of Darjeeling last year. Our congratulations and best wishes to the new couples.

## Special Congratulation

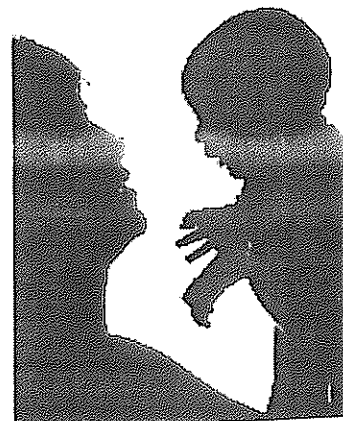
NAO is very proud to announce that our very own member, Bal Krishna Joshi was selected the Alumni of the Year by Lewis & Clark College, Portland. It is indeed a prestigious recognition in light of the vast and distinguished alumni of that college.

Furthermore, Bal Joshi (of Thamel.com) and his coauthor Bob Granger were selected for the prestigious Tony Zeitoun Award for 2003 ICT (Information Communications Technology) stories competition. The article is entitled "Thamel: reducing the social, cultural and economic cost of immigration through the power of ICT." Their article talks about the genesis of the e-commerce in Nepal and its impact on social, cultural and economic lives of Nepalis both in Nepal and abroad.

## New Babies

NAO congratulates proud parents Bishel and Sharmila Raghubansh for the arrival of their first son, Bipin Raghubansh, who was born on July 14, 2003.

NAO would also like to belatedly congratulate Sushil Aryal & Shovana Dixit on the birth of their second son, Devashis. Devashis was born on November 2, 2002.





## Graduations

NAO congratulates Praveen Chalise for successfully completing the MBA program from the Atkins School of Business, Willamette University in May 2003.

## New Faces

NAO would like to welcome the following Nepalis in our community.

- Simrik Tuladhar, Concordia University
- Xeno Acharya, Maunata Menandhar, & Prasanna Pandey, Reed College.
- Suruchi Singh, the University of Portland
- Pooja Malakar, Lane Community College, Eugene
- Surendra & Sajina Shakya (daughters Udima & Inika), Tigard
- Bijesh and Indira Prajapati (daughter Ina), Beaverton
- Binita Ranjithkar, Beaverton
- Suhista Ranjithkar, Beaverton
- Shuddhodan Ranjit's parents Shankar Man and Laxmi Devi Ranjit are in town to visit the Ranjit family.

For regular updates and other useful information, please visit our web site: [www.Nepaloregon.org](http://www.Nepaloregon.org).

the past. Our good wishes to the Rauniyar family. We will miss them.

## Apology

We apologize for the inadvertent omissions of any personal accomplishments in the current as well as previous issues. If you find any omissions or mistakes, please inform one of the members of the editorial board.

## Editorial Board

Aupama Shrestha  
Daya Shakya  
Kush Shrestha  
Sagar Onta

## Graphic Design

Dibesh (Dave) Shrestha

## Rauniyar Family Moves to Seattle

Former NAO executive committee member Darshan Rauniyar and his family have moved to Seattle, Washington. As part of his professional work, Darshan has been shuttling between Seattle and Portland for the past several months. He was an active member of our community and has contributed to Namaste publications in

## Mailing Address

Nepali Association of Oregon (NAO)  
5232 NE Irving St.  
Portland OR 97213

# 2004

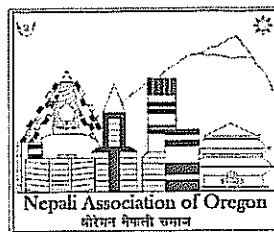
## Happy New Year!!

NAO needs your help in choosing from the following submitted logos. Please select one of them and the winning logo will represent NAO starting from 2004.

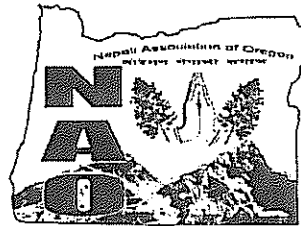
Logo 1



Logo 2



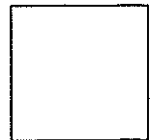
Logo 3



Logo 4



Nepali Association of Oregon  
5232 NE Irving St.  
Portland, OR 97213



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**Nepali Association of Oregon**  
**Survey of Member Expectations**

June 2003

*This survey is being conducted to help guide the executive committee in its future course of work. The executive committee is committed to provide services that are desired by our members. So please take some moment to fill the survey and have your say in the future of your organization, NAO.*

**1. What activities you think NAO should concentrate its efforts on? (Choose all that apply)**

- ☐ Help *gain recognition* for the Nepali community by participating in city/state/federal programs and/or by interacting with local/national/international organizations.
- ☐ Establish a *stronger link* with organizations in Nepal.
- ☐ Organize programs to *bring together* all Nepalese living in Oregon and foster communication and friendship.
- ☐ Organize programs to *strengthen the culture and language* of Nepal.
- ☐ Organize programs to *help new Nepali* coming to Oregon.
- ☐ Organize programs to *provide economic help* to Nepali in Oregon in need.
- ☐ *Recognize exceptional achievers* in the community.
- ☐ Others (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**2. What do you expect to gain the most by being a member of NAO?**

- ☐ Interact with other Nepali and friends of Nepal
- ☐ Teach your children about Nepali culture
- ☐ Help Nepali community in Oregon and elsewhere
- ☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**3. What level of participation are you willing to give to NAO activities?**

- A. I will attend the activities when I can
- B. I like to be kept informed of the NAO activities
- C. I will provide some financial help to organize the NAO activities
- D. I am willing to volunteer my time to help organize the NAO events (Your Name \_\_\_\_\_)

**4. What area of NAO do you think requires improvement on?**

- ☐ Quality of programs
- ☐ Number of programs (\_\_\_\_ More or \_\_\_\_ Less)
- ☐ Variety of programs
- ☐ Programs for young community members
- ☐ Communications with members
- ☐ Participation by members
- ☐ Others (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**5. What is the best way to communicate with you?**

☐ Email      ☐ Phone      ☐ Mail      ☐ From [www.nepaloregon.org](http://www.nepaloregon.org) web site

**6. How do you rate the past performance of NAO?**

- A. Excellent
- B. Average
- C. Need some work

**Other Comments:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Dhanyabad!!!*

NEPALI ASSOCIATION OF OREGON

[www.nepaloregon.org](http://www.nepaloregon.org)

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP FORM**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type (Circle One)**

\* Individual: \$10.00/Yr

\* Family: \$25.00/Yr

Name of children : [1] \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ [2] \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

[3] \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ [4] \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Student: \$5.00 /Yr

Name of School/College/University:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

.....  
**For official use only:**

Membership Number: ..... Received Date: .....

Received by: ..... Signature: .....