

Namaste!

नमस्ते

Volume 1 No. 4

P.O.Box 90581, Portland, OR 97290

November 1995

The Second Nepalese Convention and Poetry Competition:

The Second National Convention of Nepalese and friends of Nepal in North America is going to be held in University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland on May 26 and 27 1996 (Memorial Day Weekend). On this occasion the International Nepali Literary Society (INLS) announces literary seminars on "Languages and Literature of Nepal, and an international Nepali poetry Competition. The deadline to submit the papers for the seminar is Feb 15th 1996. The INLS circulation also says that the Abstract should be sent to INLS as soon as possible to reserve time slots. The poem may be submitted on any topic by any one interested in doing so. Poems should be not more than 100 words or 30 lines and should be submitted by Feb 29th. Mail to: INLS, 2926 Wetherburn Ct, Woodridge, VA 22191. The INLS also announces the awards for the poetry competition be as follows: 1st \$ 150, 2nd \$ 100 and 3rd \$ 50.

Paasni Gathering:

A Pasni Party was held for Himal King on September 23 at the home of his parents, Mark & Pushpa, in Lebanon Oregon. The day included a time of rice feeding, conversation, games for the children, dinner, and just sitting around in the park-like setting. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful day and the opportunity to make new friends.

Himal sends a thank-you to all who attended and he appreciates the wonderful gifts that were given to him.

Eugene Celebration Parade

Daya Shakya and Diwarkar Maharjan representing the Nepalese



community on behalf of the Eugene/ Kathmandu Sister City Foundation, held Nepalese flag in the Eugene Celebration parade on Sept 17. They were well received and exchanged 'Namaste'(greeting) with every one.

Namaste appreciates Kush Bhattarai's efforts to organize such wonderful entertainment in Portland. Out of the many good comments we have received the following two were found out to be most impressive for us. We thank Cora and Mary for taking a moment to write reviews on the Sur Sudha concert .

Words of Appreciation

We would like to remember those people who have participated actively during the past year to make all the various events successful. In this regard we would like to take an opportunity on behalf of every Nepalese and friends of Nepal to express our appreciation and sincere thanks to everyone including Uma and Kush Shrestha for arranging the Memorial Day Picnic, Vija Upadhyaya for arranging the art show, Kush Bhattarai for bringing the Sur Sudha, Kin Bajracharya for organizing the Labor Day Picnic, Helen Ward for arranging the Dasai Celebration and, Raja and Sunita Shrestha for providing Nepali tea and snacks to Sur Sudha audience and organizing the Nepali New year party. We are grateful to all of them.

Sur Sudha सुर सूधा

Three Nepalese musicians and a dancer known as Sur Sudha presented a concert to the delight of the audience at the Multnomah Art Center in Portland on August 20th. The musicians were Prem Awtari(flute), Bijaya Vaidya (Sitar), and Surendra Shrestha (tabla) . Performing with them was dancer Charan Pradhan. The musical program was varied, consisting mostly of arrangements of traditional Nepalese folk songs played with great expertise and sensitivity. Mr. Pradhan, dressed in vivid costumes danced for the appreciative

audience. "For some one who has missed Nepal ever since the minute her flight left Tribhuvan International Airport, The Sur Sudha concert was a delightful journey back to Kathmandu. It began as you entered the performance hall with the beautiful paintings of famous Nepali artist R.B. Bhola, displayed around the room. When the curtains opened, the sweet scent of Nepali incense wafted out to the audience and the three musicians in purple silk out fits (Daura and suruwal) appeared. The trio played tabala (drums), Murali (Flute), and Sitar instrumental songs. Their love of music and their talent was obvious from the lovely tunes they played. Charan Pradhan performed some Nepali dances which were absolutely tremendous. The intermission was graced by complementary Chiya (tea), and snacks.

One of the many songs they have presented, 'Raysom Phiriri...', was recognized by many audience members from Kathmandu, and they clapped along to the rhythm. As an amusing final, the dancer Charan Pradhan invited several audience members on to the stage to dance with him. It was a splendid evening enjoyed by all. My many many thanks goes to Kush Bhattarai for bringing Sur Sudha to Portland."

- Cora Clark
(Peace Crops- Nepal).

Logo Competition

We are happy to announce a competition to design a logo for Namaste newsletter. The logo should depict cultural meaning of the word Namaste. Design must be submitted by Dec 31st 1995 and anyone may enter. A prize will be given to the winner.

Room for a Nepalese Student

A Nepalese student is in need of a room at no charge while he pursue his education in the Portland Metropolitan Area. If you have hospitality to offer in exchange for the opportunity to learn more about the people and culture of Nepal call 777-4593.

Learn Nepali By Mail or Phone:

Daya Shakya has developed a course to teach Nepali language by

"I had a delightful evening listening to the music of SUR SUDHA and the dancing of Mr. Charan Pradhan. The evening began with a dance for the god Manjushree I was entranced. This man was so graceful, and his attention to details, eyes movements and finger movements, were fascinating. In the west we don't allow our men to be so graceful. Even our male ballet dancers could take a lesson from Mr. Pradhan's graceful movements. His energy in the dance of the courting couple was infectious! His characterization of the young woman was very funny! Having studied acting and dancing myself for many years, I was quite impressed with his talent and skill. I enjoyed the musician's skill too, especially when they each took time to demonstrate the special sounds and qualities of each of their instruments, showing the characteristics of rain, for example. Perhaps what I enjoyed most about the evening was the audience's response to the performers. Everyone was so excited to hear their native music. When the title of a very popular tune would be announced the crowd would cheer in anticipation, then I would wonder, "What is this that is coming next?". It was really fun to be among a crowd who appreciated their culture so much".

- Mary Starrs

Dasain Celebration

The 1995 dasain party was held at Old Odd Fellow Hall at Tigard, Oregon on Saturday Oct 7th. It was first time the party had been held in a community hall and was a great success. For the past several years Mr. Kush Battarai's family has been generous in organizing the Dasain party at his residence in Portland. Since the number of Nepalese and friends of Nepal have been increasing enormously every year, it was necessary for us to have such a holy day party in a place where all Nepalese and friends of Nepal can join together and greet each other for better and prosperous life in the next year.



Many many thanks to Helen Ward enthusiastically raising funds and fixing the delicious meal with the help of friends and her relatives, and offering Tikaa to all the party goers.

This time the party was also joined by friends from Portland, Tigard, Lake Oswego, Beaverton, Eugene, Corvallis, Salem, Seaside, Camas (WA), Vancouver (WA), Canada and many friends from Seattle (WA). The party ended with singing and dancing to thrilling music in Nepali, Hindi and English.

खाना धेरै मिठो लाग्यो

Coral Mack and Bob Bowman, out going President and Treasurer of the Eugene/Kathmandu Sister City Foundation, attended the Dasain Celebration and were delighted to see several old friends including Daya and Jaya Shakya, Diane Frank, Don and Kareen Messerschmidt and Norbu Sherpa. Bob added, that he had never seen such a abundant array of aromatic home cooking and that he enjoyed immensely. They both agreed that the people, food, and dancing made for an enjoyable festive evening.

mail or phone conversation. He has been teaching Nepali Language in various community colleges in Oregon for travellers and trekkers. For details please contact him at (503) 777-4593.

Credit Earning Opportunity

There are number of institutions in United states that provide credit courses in Nepal Study Programs. If you know any one who is interested in taking such courses please let us know by sending a self addressed stamped envelope. We will send you a detail list of Nepal study programs in the US.

Teaching English in Nepal

Any one who wishes to teach English language in Nepal for children from Kindergarten to Middle school grades please contact Namaste. This would be a volunteer job. However, you may get room and board while you teach in Nepal. Your name will be forwarded to the needed party or you may contact them personally through Namaste.

Kathmandu Cafe Opened

In view of growing demand, many of our friends have shown interest in opening a Nepalese restaurant in Portland. However, they have not been able to find a suitable location. Instead, one of our friends has decided to open a Nepali food booth at the Saturday Market. Please take a moment and stop by the booth to try the delicious flavors of MOMO, Chow Chow, and Tripti at a reasonable price. Yam! yam!! Open every Saturday and Sunday from 10-5.

Weddings

Manoj Kansakar of Eugene (Currently living in Vancouver, Canada) married Kathleen Hoag of Portland on August 19th at the Dharma Rain Zen Center, Portland. They have left the US to introduce the bride to the groom family in Kathmandu and to enjoy their honeymoon.

Similarly, Don and Kareen Messerschmidt's only daughter Liesl Messerschmidt married Arjun KC in Kathmandu. They have now returned to the US to peruse their academic studies. Namaste congratulates both couples and wishes them success in their lives.

Namaste is one year old

It was at this time of the year in 1994 that we published our first Newsletter. Our aim was to create a coordinating body that would facilitate the opportunity for people to get know each other and to inform each other about our activities. We started as an experiment and were pleased when it was well received by our many friends. As a result, we came up with a financial sponsor to bring out another issue. Similarly that was also well received by much larger group of friends. We then had to ask the questions how necessary Namaste was for us. In this response, many of our friends encouraged us to continue, and showed support and interest either financially or by collecting news. We realized that it was good to keep each other informed and that Namaste was filling a need in the community. Good comments and support came not only from our friends from Oregon but also from as far away as Canadian Nepali group. We are very proud of all of our supporters and well wishers. We want to thank Mary Murphy, Mary Mei, David Hargreaves, Binod Kansakar, Cora Clark, Niel Steenbergen and Tara Ethnics for contributions. We also thank to Nepalese Taekwando group, Gifts from Afar family, Darshan Rauniyar, and Helen Ward and her relatives for sponsorships.

This is just a beginning. Among the many achievements of Namaste in the past year has been it's ability to announce important upcoming events so that every one who wants is able to attend. The Memorial and Labor Day picnics, now annual events, have had terrific participation and have been an enormous success. The Sur Sudha concert, was well attended due in part to Namaste's announcements. We hope that with Namaste's and our friends support that the Dasain Celebration will become the major event of the year for both the Nepalese and friends of Nepal.

By announcing important events and writing articles about people involved in the community we hope to foster a growing sense of unity, acceptance and understanding among all of our friends with luck and good fortune. These feelings will expand beyond the borders of Oregon to include those in the greater Pacific North region. We are pleased with our achievements and want to thank everyone who has helped to make them possible. We realize that improvements are always possible and welcome your ideas and suggestions. We wish our readers well. Namaste !

Newari is no longer called Newari

The Nepalese government has recently recognized the language of Newars to be called the "Nepal Bhasha" (the language of Nepal). The Newar community has been demanding for several decades to reuse the name "Nepal Bhasha". (Rising Nepal 9/9/95)

Nepal and Nepalese related Communities and Journals in North America :

ANA, ANMA; Eugene/ Kathmandu Sisters City Foundation, Pasa Pucha, (New Jersey); Nepa Pucha, San Francisco; INLS (Virginia), Rocky Mountain Friends of Nepal (Denver, Co.), ANS, (California); NCNC Canada.

Journals:

Chautari (New York), Diyalo (Canada), Antar Dristi (Virginia), Himalayan Research Bulletin (Portland), ANA

Bulletin (New York), View Point (Ohio) and Namaste (Oregon), News From Nepal (Portland).

New Families

We say Namaste to the Raghubansi and the Aryal families. The Raghubansi Family has moved here from Colorado and the Aryal family from Washington. Namaste welcomes both families to our community and wishes them happy and successful lives in Oregon.

Lets go to Eugene

Please mark your calendar that the 11th Asian Celebration is going to be held on Feb 17 and 18 1996 in Eugene Oregon. We will present Nepali dances on this occasion. Please contact Namaste if you would like to be involved in a dance or music performance. Lets take our tradition there!

Cultural Forum

From the next issue we will run a Cultural Forum to share your experience in this culture or in Nepal with friends. Please send us a paragraph with a thrilling cultural experience or shock on your first visit either to Nepal or to the US.

Bhai Tikaa

The fifth day of Tihar festival known as the Bhai Tikaa (on Oct 25th) is celebrated with offering the Tikaa to brothers by sisters in many of the Nepali families. Because of scheduling clash we were not able to organize a group Bhai Tikaa this year. If it works out for every body, we will do next year.

Thanksgiving Words From Helen Ward

I hope you all had a good time on the Dasai Party. I would like to thank you all for participating on the event. It is always nice to see friends and families come together to celebrate the Holiday like Dasai; especially since we are so far away from our homeland and our families.

I would like to extend my special thanks to Mrs. Bimala Raghubansi and Mrs. Narvada Vaidya. They really helped me pull through this big event, which I undertook without thinking twice. They worked hard to make sure we all had a good time and good food to eat for this special day.

My heartfelt thanks to my family members: Bernadine, Raju, Minu, Urmila, Nancy, and of course my spouse Steven. All these people spent several days without any complaint to make sure the event took place and of course to make sure it went smoothly. I am sure most of you realize that without them, it would have been impossible for me to take over the responsibility.

I would also like to thank all those people who helped us set up and clean up the place. Special thanks to Kabir Pradhan for setting up the music and making it sure that every one's need was met.

On behalf of Portlander's I would like to extend our special thanks to friends from Seattle, for their participation on the event.

Thank you very much to you all.

IDEA

International Development and Education Association, an Oregon non-profit, formed in 1992, to provide management training and economic development opportunities world-wide.
President - Pushpa Paudyal King.

Sponsor:

This issue of 'Namaste' has been published with financial support from our well known friend Helen Ward and her relatives. Namaste thanks them very much. धन्यवाद !

Nepali Dictionaries

A Dictionary of Spoken Nepali, by Earl Mosburg, Denver, CO (\$14.95)
A Nepali-English Dictionary, by Prakash A Raj, Hippocrane Publications NY.(\$8.950)
(Please contact us if you need a copy)

Language Survey

On Behalf of the INLS's language instruction and research sub-committee, a survey will be conducted on Nepali language skills of Nepalese children living in the US in view of finding a solution to keep the know-ledge of language alive with them. The survey form will be mailed in a couple of weeks. Please send the forms back to INLS with your comments.

We wish all our friends
Happy Holidays
on auspicious occasion of
Thanks-Giving (American
Dasain), Christmas and The
New year 1996.
- Namaste

विनम्र अनुरोध
अमेरिकास्थित विश्वविद्यालय तथा महाविद्यालय-
हरु र गैर-शैक्षिक संस्थानमा नेपालीभाषा पढाउने
गरेका आदरनीय प्राध्यापक तथा शिक्षक हरुले
आपसी सम्पर्कको निम्ती यस पत्रिका माफत
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पठाई सहयोग गर्नुहुन विनम्र अनुरोध गरिन्छ ।
drasha@aoL.com

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Stamp
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