

Association of Nepalese in Midwest America

Viewpoints – Newsletter of ANMA

Dashain 2002 Issue

Viewpoints is the official newsletter for Association of Nepalese in Midwest America. It is published quarterly and contains news and articles from our participating members. ANMA welcomes news from your area to be written up in *Viewpoints*. To submit news or an article, please contact **Mr. Bhaskar Tripathy** or **Mr. Sudip Suvedi**.

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NEWS

Message from the President

Dear ANMA members & friends:

Happy Bijaya greetings to you all!

We are pleased to post the first issue of "Viewpoints" on our web site on this auspicious occasion of "Bada Dassain". May the blessings of the goddess Durga Bhavani bring peace, prosperity and good health to all of us!



Our last executive committee meeting in Chicago, Illinois on August 17, 2002 was unique in the sense that it was preceded by picnic in the park. The weather was perfect, and so was the food and entertainment. It was sort of a social get together and provided a wonderful opportunity to meet new and old friends. Everyone from outside and within Chicago, Illinois area enjoyed the event. Thanks for the hard work Sharada Thapa, Rajeev Dahal and others. Our thanks also to Kiran and Rita Gyawali for hosting the delicious dinner at their house following the executive committee meeting at Sharada & Wendy Thapa's residence. ANMA is proud of its members for their relentless and dedicated service to the Nepalese community in the Midwest and throughout North America.

As most of you are already aware, we have decided to host the 2003 Annual Convention of ANMA in the beautiful city of Chicago, Illinois during the Memorial Day weekend. We do expect a big gathering. So let's fold our sleeves and start planning earlier to make it an exciting and memorable event for years to come.

Dr. Prahlad & Mrs. Bindu pant has kindly volunteered to host the next executive committee meeting at their residence in Cincinnati, Ohio on Saturday November 9, 2002.

The details of the meeting agenda and directions will be e-mailed later. We are expecting reports from the executive members for the desirability and feasibility of creating ANMA affiliated committees in cities like Chicago, Columbus and Indianapolis. The current bylaws of ANMA need to be amended accordingly. ANMA is also considering sponsoring at least one school in Nepal through "Book of Nepal" foundation run by Mr. John Wood. This will be further discussed in the upcoming meeting.

Our congratulations to Chicagoland Nepali Pariwar for successfully performing the Chicagoland Nepali Ensemble (Cultural show) at O'Hare airport on the eve of Unity month (September) sponsored by the city of Chicago.

Lastly, but not the least, on behalf of ANMA, I would like to deliver my heart felt congratulations to Mrs. Vijaya Shrestha and Mr. Sharada Thapa for the well deserved distinguished community award presented by NAC on the NAsEA convention 2002 at Atlanta, Georgia.

With best wishes,
Pradeep Dhital, MD
President, ANMA

Community News from the Chicago area

Nepali New Year Celebration

The Nepali New Year was celebrated in Chicago with great enthusiasm and joy on Saturday, April 13th.

A gathering of about 90 people was treated to a very well organized and run party at a banquet hall in Huntley, a northwest suburb. The brunt of the organizing was done by David Seaman who grew up in far western Nepal and is more "Nepali" than many native born.

Picnic/ANMA Executive Committee Meeting

Prior to the ANMA executive meeting on August 17th there was a community picnic at Harms Woods, which was a great success. There were a total of at least 165 people there. There were some 25 out-of-state meeting attendees. It was not possible to keep track of all the smaller children there. The count does not include the two who tried to crash the food line. Hopefully, we can have at least one event like that every year.

ANMA guests from three states were very favorably impressed and were enthusiastic that Chicago can host a very successful Annual Convention of ANMA over the Memorial Day weekend in 2003. They also expressed their heartfelt thanks to all the Chicagoland Nepalis. After all expenses there was a small deficit, which ANMA treasury is covering.

One of the main topics of discussion at the meeting was the establishment of a Chicago affiliate of ANMA, which would maintain unity among Nepalis in the Midwest, avoid duplication of tax-exempt organizations with similar purposes and create an official Chicagoland organization to serve the local population of Nepalis. Rajeev Dahal is the point man developing the modalities of how this can best be established.

Deep Shrestha/1974 AD Performance

Just a week later Chicago was host to a performance by this dynamite musical combo. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Rabin Pradhan, Rahi Gurung, Raju Prajapati and many of their friends well over 150 people were able to enjoy the performance fortified by homemade choela and the usual liquid accompaniments.

The ANA convention in Washington, D.C. over the July 4th weekend ended with live performances by 1974 A.D. and Deep Shrestha. It was truly a "not to be missed, once in a life time experience". The Chicago Nepalese Pariwar invite 1974 A.D. and Deep Shrestha to perform here in Chicago.

Unity Month at O'Hare - Nepali Presentations



The City of Chicago declares September to be "Unity Month" and events are held all over the city to showcase the unity in diversity of Chicago. Among other sites, O'Hare Airport is a important one and Nepalis were invited to put on a show.

Chicagoland Nepali Pariwar proudly presented "The Chicagoland Nepali Ensemble" at O' Hare International Airport, Terminal One on Friday September 27th, 2002 between 3 to 6 p.m. to celebrate Unity Month 2002 as our ensemble showcased our culture, our identity and our talent. The show was continuous and well acclaimed. The airport video will probably feature some of the performances. A number of the local Nepalis also

attended, as did the Honorary Consul. There was a giveaway of T shirts and CD's of flute music by Manoj, an extremely talented member of 1974 A. D. The disks were sponsored by ANMA with approximately two thirds of the cost being met by Chicago members.



The Ensemble:
David Seaman,
Subodh Upreti,
Sangita Shrestha,
Birat Pandey,
Raju Prajapati,
Suchitra Thapa,
Asim Chatout,
Ramakanth Kharel,
Sarita Sitaula,



Nistha Tamrakar, Srastha Tamrakar, Bishal Maskey, Dhiraj Kafle, Santosh Gurung, Neha Pradhan, Rahul Prajapati, Rabin Pradhan, Prasoon Khanal, Sunil Situala, Jevina Shrestha, Neelu Prajapati, Prakash Shrestha, Sabina Tuladhar and Ramesh Shrestha

Nepali Marathoner in Chicago

Shyam Karki from Rochester is running (at well over 50 years) the Chicago Marathon on October 13, Sunday to raise funds for a Briddhashram in Devighat, Nepal. A number of his friends in Illinois, Ohio and Michigan are sponsoring him at \$1 to \$10 a mile. He hopes to finish in four and a half hours.

John Wood/Room to Read in Chicago

On Thursday, September 12, Chicago played host to John Wood, a man who has devoted his life to helping Nepal to develop its education system. While on a trek in the Annapurna Range in 1998, John was invited by teachers to visit their schools. They told him about the lack of resources and asked for his help. He agreed to help them establish a library by collecting books.

Just a few years later, he is now at 140,000 books. He has helped to establish 300 school libraries. He has partnered with local villages to build 25 new schools and 10 new computer labs. And he has raised funds to help 100 girls from less-fortunate families to go to school on long-term scholarships.

Why does he do it? Simply because he loves Nepal and its people. Because the word Namaste means a lot to him. And because he passionately believes that if we want to change the world, we need to start by educating children. This is a wonderful cause. They are getting some REAL work done in Nepal providing education for future generations.

Nepali Restaurant

Ramakant Kharel's Mt. Everest Restaurant in nearby Evanston continues to do well. His fare is very popular among other ethnics as well as Nepalis and was featured at the Harms Woods picnic. The restaurant is at 618 Church Street about two miles north of the city limits.

New Honorary Royal Consul General of Nepal in Chicago

Mr. Marvin A Brustin, Attorney at Law, continues to be active in Nepali-American affairs. Felicitations on his wedding in June to Ms. Allison Clark. Mr. Brustin's office address is:
100 West Monroe Street, Suite 500
Chicago, IL 60603
312-265-1250.

Inter-religious and Asian Outreach

As part of an effort to gain the local Nepali community some visibility and voice in the Chicagoland inter faith scene, Mr. Sharda Thapa has remained active in activities that that are such a feature of Chicago life.

He has been elected the president of the Rogers Park Interreligious Partners, an inter-faith group that has been nurtured by the Congress for A Parliament of the World's Religions.

The Nepali community members in other cities and towns are encouraged to send news of their own outreach efforts. The Nepalese are a small community, and only by leveraging other groups can we be heard or seen.

Asian American Advisory

Sharda Thapa continues to be a member of Illinois Sec. of State Jesse Asian American Advisory Council. The objective of the Council, composed of leaders in the Illinois Asian-American community, is to advise the Secretary on issues and concerns of their communities.

He is also a member, appointed by Mayor Richard Daley, of the City of Chicago's Commission on Human Rights - Advisory Council on Asian American Affairs, which has a similar mission.

Compiled and prepared by Sharda Thapa, Chicago, IL.

Community News from the Indianapolis area

There were several activities in Indianapolis to bring the people from different disciplines and different areas of Indiana together. In doing so, there was a picnic program last month in Anderson where approximately 50 people participated. We enjoyed the picnic with Sports, a cultural program, and discussions on the venue for the Dashain celebration. In consequence to that we are going to celebrate our Dashain 2059 in a banquet hall in Indianapolis on 19th October with the almost 70 participants. We will have Durga Puja followed by Dinner, a cultural program, Bingo, etc. to entertain our audience. Both the above activities were under my initiation with the support of my colleges in Indianapolis.

Compiled and prepared by Bala Krishna Dhungana, IN.

Community News from the Michigan area

The Michigan Nepali community is growing day by day. Here are some of the updates on community activities:

- Tara Bhattarai was born to Birendra and Prabha Bhattarai on 4/2/2002, she was 5 lb 7oz, 19.5 inches. Birendra, Prabha, and Josh hosted a Pasni reception on August 31st.
- Dipendra and Praprti Basnyat had a healthy baby girl, Diya Basnyat in September.
- Rajesh and Amita Adhikary had a healthy baby girl, Iilina Adhikary in October.
- The Sharma family had many great transitions so far this year:
- Bal Krishna and Radha Sharma - moved from East Lansing, MI to Raleigh, NC.
- They bought a new house and Sharmaji has started a new job.
- Their older daughter Shashi and her husband Ashish Bhatta had a new baby girl born on Monday June 24, 2002. Ashish and Shashi describe their daughter Sirisa Bhatta as: She is doing great and we are enjoying every moment with her. This unconditional love to her is really something. Srisa Bhatta was born on June 24, 2002.
- Their older son Suraj Sharma graduated from MSU in Telecommunications in May 2002. He moved to St. Louis and has started a new career. The Sharmas' younger son Manoj Sharma graduated from MSU in Computer Science in May 2002. He moved to Naperville, IL (Chicago area) and works as a consultant for Crowe Chizek, the 9th largest consulting firm in the US.
- Vijaya and Prabha Thapa had a healthy boy, Prayash Thapa, last summer. They moved to Iowa with a better career opportunity. Michiganders miss them a lot!
- Dhruva Bhattarai wed Chanda Sharma last summer among friends and family. Suresh Sharma wed Priya Basnyat in Lansing, last summer among friends and family. Delicious food was catered by Nepali owned, Cafe Tandoori of Midland, Michigan.
- Pooja, daughter of Gaury and Anita Adhikary moved on to pursue her career in Law at Maryland Law School, Baltimore starting from fall of 2002.
- Dr Murari Suvedi, Associate Prof at the Michigan State University visited Nepal as a visiting Fulbright Professor during summer of 2002.
- Ms Durga Bhattachan, Uma shrestha, Nitu Wagley and a host of Michigan family finally got ASHA Foundation going to help "Nepali Chhori" go to school in Nepal!

- Ann Arbor is hosting 7th Annual convention of America Nepal Medical Foundation <www.anmf.net> on June 27-29, 2003, so please mark your calendar for.
- Dr. Khagendra Thapa, professor of Surveying Engineering at Ferris State University was awarded Distinguish Professor of the Year Finalist Award during a faculty celebration function held in the spring of 2002 at Holiday Inn in Big Rapids. He has been teaching at Ferris State University for the last 16 years. In the past, Dr. Thapa has received Ferris State University Award of Excellence, Michigan Association of Governing Boards Distinguished Faculty Award, and Certificate of Commendment from Michigan Legislature, and Certificate of appreciation from the Governor of Michigan.
- Acharya Khem Raj Keshavsaranjee, well known for his spiritual, educational and sociowelfare activities both in Nepal and internationally, recently visited Detroit, MI. He was invited by Bharatiya Temple, Troy, Michigan to give a weeklong prabachan on Bhagbat Katha. Nepalese from all over Michigan and especially from the Metropolitan Detroit area had a chance to personally meet him and listen to his excellent nectar like Prabachans & Bhajans. All Nepalese Hindu devotees were extremely delighted and proud seeing their own Acharyaji enlightening the international audience and spreading Santama Dharma to the world.
- Sudip Suvedi, son of Murari and Yasoda Suvedi of East Lansing completed his Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in April. Sudip then started working on display technologies for General Dynamics Land Systems in Sterling Heights, MI. Sudip and his wife Elizabeth also recently moved to the Troy, MI area from the Northville area.
- Michigan Nepali family wishes a very happy and prosperous Vijaya Dashami to Nepali Diaspora of the North America. Nepali families in the Michigan area will be celebrating Dashain on Saturday October 12th in Milford, MI.

Compiled and prepared by Gaury S Adhikary, Ann Arbor, MI.

ARTICLES

African Americans

By Prasad Dhital, 11th Grade, West Bloomfield, MI

"We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome some day"

The struggle for equality for Americans of African descent continues despite the significant advances made during the 1950's and 1960's. The question arises as to whether the struggle for Civil Rights has actually benefited the descendents of the many who sacrificed jobs, properties, reputations and even their lives. The Black struggle for Civil Rights is unparalleled. No group in America has or has had more difficulty integrating into the American culture. In 1764, James Otis Jr. dared to suggest that natural law, of which our nation's founders laid claim, meant that all people, Black and White, are born free and equal. Until recently in the America's history, the thought of such an idea relating to minorities was absurd.

Africans and their descendants have been a part of the story of the Americas at least since the late 1400s. Portuguese traders brought the first African slaves for agricultural labor to the Caribbean in 1502. From then until 1860, it is estimated that more than 10 million people were transported from Africa to the Americas. By 1768, the English slave trade had a figure of 53,000 slaves a year being shipped to the North American continent. The slaves were so valuable to the open market; they were eventually called "Black Gold".

The Anti slavery movement began in 1833 when the American Anti slavery society was established. Prominent black leaders began to join this organization. Among them were Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth. The goal of the American Anti slavery Society was to see the complete abolition of slavery everywhere in the United States. Many of the abolitionists endorsed a secret

movement to help the African slaves achieve freedom. Some significant clues of the Underground Railroad included well-defined hidden routes and following the bright North Star during the night, as well as certain "stations". The most skilled and successful conductor of the Underground Railroad was Harriet Tubman. She was credited with leading over 300 runaways to freedom with a total of 19 trips through the south. The Underground Railroad, from 1800 up until the end of 1865, assisted more than 40,000 slaves to freedom up north and into Canada. At the outset of the Civil War, both Northern Whites and free blacks came forth to join the Union army. From the beginning, both black slaves and freeman saw this opportunity to serve in the military as a method for surrender their chains and proving their inclusive worthiness to this nation. On January 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation gave formal right to the ex-slaves to be received in the U.S. Union armed forces. The Emancipation Proclamation only freed those slaves in the states under the jurisdiction of the Confederacy. By 1868, the 14th amendment of the constitution confirmed the long awaited citizenship for Blacks in America. By 1870, the 15th amendment was added to the constitution, which made it illegal to deny the right to vote based on race. The reconstruction, although short-lived, showed the first real attempt of inclusive freedom for African- Americans. Gains were taking place, such as citizenship, voting, education and politics. Later that freedom was restricted by Jim Crow Laws, discrimination and the denial of equal protection by law.

Prejudice has had a tremendous economic, psychological, philosophical and educational effect upon many African Americans. Many were treated in a sub- human manner because of the color of their skin. After generations of mistreatment, the stories of pain and resentment has been almost an unforgettable part of the race's cultural philosophy. The grounds for resentment were based on a pain that had been suffered by their descendants and them since the very beginning of the slave trade in this nation. As blacks sought to claim their rights as men and citizens, they were confronted with constant resistance from whites who were unwilling to accept them. Again they were pushed down into second class status. It appeared that democracy was for whites only. Though these days racism is not as common and blatant, it still exists and the effects from before are still prominent.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or the NAACP, was founded in 1909 in New York City for the purpose of improving the conditions under which black Americans lived at that time. For more than ninety-one years, the NAACP has been built on the individual and collective courage of thousands of people. Sixty people, black and white, assembled on Abraham Lincoln's birthday in 1909 to form the NAACP. The meeting was prompted by the extreme mistreatment of blacks in the United States. Perhaps the most important single victory for the NAACP was the unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decision of 1954 declaring that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. Aided by organized labor and by various minority group and civil organizations, the NAACP went on to lead the efforts that resulted in the ratification of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957 and 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Fair Housing act of 1968. In 1963 the NAACP mobilized its financial and human resources in preparation for what became the nation's greatest mass demonstration for civil rights, the August 28 "Job for Freedom" march on Washington D.C., at which the key speaker was the American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

The NAACP operates under a President and Chief Executive Officer who reports to a 17 member executive committee of the board of directors. The NAACP continues to seek a single class of Citizenship for every American. The goals of many African Americans are to improve their political, educational and economic status. They are trying to eliminate racial prejudice by keeping the public aware of the adverse effects of racial discrimination. The main goals for related African American interest groups are to improve education, voting rights, housing, anti discrimination, criminal justice and health awareness. The NAACP has been monumental in helping to achieve these goals. They have worked tirelessly in helping to improve the well being of all African Americans. With an organization such as NAACP many blacks have an opportunity to voice their opinions, on issues that effect their every day life.

The Civil Rights Movement was a political, legal and social struggle for black Americans to gain full Citizenship rights and to achieve racial equality. During the civil rights movement, individuals and civil rights organizations challenged segregation and discrimination with a variety of activities, including protest marches, boycotts, and refusal to abide by segregation laws. On December 1, 1955 Rosa Parks, a member of the Montgomery, Alabama branch of NAACP, was told to give up her seat on a city bus to a white person. When Parks refused to move, she was arrested. The Local NAACP recognized that the arrest of Parks might rally local blacks to protest segregated buses. The Montgomery bus boycott was an immediate success. It lasted more than a year and dramatized to the American Public the determination of blacks in the south to end segregation. A federal court ordered Montgomery's buses desegregated in November 1956, and the boycott ended in victory. A young Baptist Minister

named Martin Luther King Jr., was president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, the organization that directed the boycott. The protest made King a national figure. King became President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which used non-violent, direct action to protest segregation. His support of non-violence attracted supporters among peace activists. In 1963, the national civil rights leadership decided to put pressure on Congress to pass the Civil Rights Act legislation by planning a march on Washington D.C. in August. During the march King delivered his "I have a dream" speech in front of Lincoln Memorial. For many activists and some scholars, the civil rights movement ended in 1968 with the death of Martin Luther King Jr. Although full equality has not been reached, the civil rights movement did put basic improvements in place. Those were indeed long steps towards racial equality.

The struggle still continues for many African Americans living in this country. They face an enormous battle with society, and more importantly within themselves, as they strive to define what "success" will mean in their own, unique lives. Stereotypes and racism are also constantly pushed in their face. Therefore, as we strive for a day when our country reaches equality, we ask if these overwhelming hardships that blacks face are beginning to be heard and recognized. Although the African Americans struggle continues, they still find a way to rise above it.

Third Eye on America :: The World After 911

By Arun Dahal

On that infamous day of September 11, 2001 the bright sky of New York was filled with dark black smoke oozing out from the twin towers. Fanatics destroyed an American iconic symbol of capitalism whose purpose was to humiliate a sole remaining super-power in the world. It is hard to fathom such a massive damage could be caused by suicide missionaries using ordinary knives to turn a plane into a bomb. America was bruised, hurt and damaged on that day. The tremor of shocks continues to haunt the nation and the people. It is still hard to conceive this incident could threaten a civilization. The world is constantly reminded of the hurt, the horror, the tragedy, the tears of fathers, mothers, children and the ordinary folks. This brutal attack cost 2800 lives but its impact has been massive on American economy, national psyche, lingering pain, anger and moments of helplessness that resulted in an unmistakable and a prompt retaliation demonstrating an America's unparalleled prowess- a showdown of strength.

By now an unknown and unaccounted numbers of civilian lives have been lost in Afghanistan. War related abuses, reprisals, death and destruction of the land and the people included reported death of 600 -960 prisoner of wars by aphyxiasation alone during barrel transport of humans with no water and little air, people packed like sardines. Live humans turned to corpses before it arrived destination. These facts are barely reported and are typically ignored, as it can be easy to choose to ignore an enemy's pain. Once you term them an enemy it clears the human conscience. It also becomes virtuous to kill infinitely once you are able to build public support for the destruction of an enemy. It becomes a heroic act, and bravery.

America on that day took a mission to wipe terrorism from the face of the world. Is it feasible or achievable mission, is a separate and a profound question. As a result of events on September 11 the world is not same any more with regard to global economy, human trust, national and air security.

Looking from America's sets of eyes it is in comprehensive that there were joy, celebrations and feasts in some part of the world. What makes such occasion a moment of pride for some, most do wonder.

Yes America has changed now as there are also darker aspects of this day. Innocent humans have lost lives in America because they looked like Taliban in turban (Sikhs). Arab Americans live in fear. Innocent children of different backgrounds have been harassed for being and looking like Arab. "Arab", has become a bad word in America. There is a stigma like being "black" in America has a stigma of being a criminal. Being an "Arab" is seen as a potential terrorist. A Pakistani student misses his wedding in Pakistan because he is detained for security reason, an Indian actress is suspiciously interrogated for getting excited on the plane and changing seats in airplane to see New York skyline on her first visit to the USA. All Americans pay the price of long lines for security checks at US airports, but the "brown" and Arab looking people pay bigger price as they are suspiciously subjected to intense inspections and more frequent "random checks" than other skin tones. Many say; it is minor in-convenience for a safer air and America. But America's trust, confidence and tolerance are compromised possibly forever. Her psyche on racial harmony is damaged with deep scars. One cannot

even measure the impact of social, economic and employment discriminations, as they always are difficult to measure. These Americans of different background are suspects today just like Japanese Americans were during the Second World War. This distrust and mistrusts cannot help America, a micro- world and unique nation of diverse people.

Going back in time, some 60 years ago, there was Japanese bombing in Pearl Harbor. This Japanese treacherous attack cost 2000 American lives on Dec 7, 1941 and as retaliation America bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The attack on Pearl Harbor was a military target whereas the attack on New York, DC, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki were targeted for innocent civilians annihilations. Due to American bombing 200,000 people lost lives including 10,000 Japanese soldiers. Just like in New York, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki: the mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers lost lives but many children too lost lives in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Their bodies vaporized, and melted into cement. Gordon Pather, a former nuclear physicist of Lawrence Livermore National laboratory said, "You may suppose that last September the world saw worst ever act of terror. Wrong! We (Americans) dropped Little Boy on Hiroshima-also not a military target in order to kill and terrorize millions of Japanese."

The difference between Manhattan versus Hiroshima and Nagasaki was that there were no pieces to pick in these places like in ground zero in Manhattan. Everything's was burned, vaporized, flattened five square miles in Hiroshima and two square miles in Nagasaki. Several thousand buildings perished from both the cities. Human bodies- incinerated, liquefied and vaporized, dust to dust, soul to soul. Ironically this project of mass destruction was called Manhattan project 57 years ago. Hiroshima's massacre was at 8.15 AM the zero hour, Manhattan's North twin tower was hit around 8.45 AM which became ground zero. Hiroshima had ended with " a great huge light and a thunderous explosion" the Twin Towers ended with huge explosion, black smoke and buckling of steel. The intense heat made the steel like "play-dough" soft plastic.

There were tears pain and emotional scars on one side, and joyous celebrations on the other side.

The second world war alone wiped 46 million people in this world. It only happened 57 years ago. Most agree it was a just war. But it did not stop man killing a man for just or unjust reasons.

Dropping a 7000 F uranium bomb on a non military target was after all, proper payback to those "Jap savages", as Truman called them," writes Steve Benson (Arizona Republic, USA, August 4, 2002).

Speaking on a just war: an article in by Steve Bensen mentions Harry Truman confessed of his hatred towards Chinese and Japs during second world war...It is a race prejudice I guess ," he wrote. " But I am strongly of opinion that Negroes ought to be in Africa, yellow man in Asia, and white men in Europe and America". This statement is absolutely illegal and punishable in today's America, however the sentiments are still alive and kicking in America, a social evil of grave magnitude.

Compare 7000 F heat in Hiroshima bombing with 5000F in Twin Tower's raids, and the difference in temperature was not an act of compassion. The intentions were similar, the lessons of revenge, and killing the enemies. The justification is the righteousness cause, the jihad, causing humans pain and suffering. The celebration of victory over human killing, a savage thirst for human blood! Nothing less!!

Think of 7000F temperature it is 33 times hotter than boiling water. Think of vaporized body. Think of the smell at ground zero. Amplify that for Hiroshima.

Admiral William Halsey said in 1946:

" To drop the first atomic bomb (on Japan) was a mistake... It was not necessary. It killed a lot of Japs, but the Japs had put out a lot of peace feelers through Russia long before."

Chairman of joint Chief of Staff, William D. Leahy wrote, " It is my opinion that the use of this barbarian weapon was of no material assistance in our war against Japan as they were ready to surrender."

" My own feeling was that in being the first to use we have adopted an ethical standard of common to the barbarians of the Dark Ages."

General McArthur wrote Herbert Hoover in 1959, " The Japanese were beaten and seeking peace long before the bombs were dropped."

Murray Kempton, a young American infantryman stationed in Philippines said, " Children died in Hiroshima... and America did it." He questioned, " does this differentiate human from beasts? Speaking on bombing and a "just war" BBC commentator Jim Holt put it a little bluntly: " It is always wrong to boil a baby even if lives are saved thereby."

It is not that only fanatics like al – Queda, Oklahoma city Unabomber Timothy McVeigh or suicide bombers in Middle East decide to do mass killing. The democratic governments too can justify massive killing, in the name of protection, self-defense, and defending civilization. There are medals of honors and celebrations once justified, the killers become heroes. And there is Ramayana, Mahabharat, Koran and jihad. The plain and simple message is; killing is a heroic act as long as it is justified. Now without guns we can- not protect our homes, streets, civilization and the world. US President says 300 billion dollars are not enough for defense, as he needs more money, and more weapons. He unilaterally tells chillingly to the United Nations if UN will not fix Sadaam US will fix him. He talks of " Pre- emptive first strike strategy" to weaken or eliminate the perceived enemies or any anticipated threat. Do-not be surprised we will do our famous "Rambo" type operations. "We will protect civilization, the world and ourselves. If you are not with us then you are against us".

There is only message of war in today's unipolar, uni-lateral world of 21st century, and America has become sole protector of this world. And the message of peace remains in songs like " Give peace a chance..." Gandhi, Martin Luther King's and Buddha's message remain in textbooks of religion and philosophy to be preached to students but not to be practiced.

Who will give peace a chance? Who will practice these teachings? Who will avoid the repeat of 1941, 1945 and 2001? How will we stop future Hiroshima and Nagasaki? The dark clouds loom in the horizon. Is the world safer today since America has taken the charge of world peace and elimination of terror? Will it succeed? Is it even achievable? Will we ever be civilized? These questions remain unanswered in the very beginning of the 21st century.

West Nile Virus

Q. What is West Nile Virus?

A. West Nile Virus is a mosquito-born virus that can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord).

Q. How does West Nile Virus spread?

A. West Nile Virus is spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. A mosquito becomes infected by biting a bird that carries the virus. You or your child cannot get West Nile Virus from a person who has the disease. West Nile Virus is not spread by person-to-person contact such as touching, kissing, or caring for someone who is infected.

Recent investigation has confirmed West Nile Virus transmission through transplanted organs and transfusion of blood products.

Q. Are older adults more at risk for West Nile Viral Disease?

A. Yes. While the chance of anyone becoming infected with West Nile Virus is very low, most cases have occurred in people older than 50 years. Persons in this age group, especially the elderly are also more likely to develop severe diseases such as encephalitis or meningitis, if they become infected.

Q. Is a woman's pregnancy at risk if she gets infected with West Nile Virus?

A. There is no documented evidence that a pregnancy is at risk due to infection with West Nile Virus.

Q: Where did West Nile Virus Come from?

A: Outbreaks of West Nile Viral disease have occurred in Africa, Egypt, Israel, Asia, Romania, Russia and France. Before 1999, however, West Nile Virus had never before been found in the Americas. The most likely explanation for its appearance here is that the virus was introduced by an infected bird that was imported or an infected person returning from a country where the virus is common.

Q: Can you get West Nile Virus directly from birds?

A: There is currently no evidence that West Nile virus can be spread directly from birds to people. However, dead birds can carry a variety of diseases, and therefore, should never be handled with bare hands. Use gloves to carefully place dead birds in double plastic bags and then place in the outdoor trash. Dead crows that are found should be reported to the state's West Nile virus toll free hotline, for possible testing.

Q: Besides mosquitoes, can you get West Nile Virus directly from other insects or ticks?

A: Infected mosquitoes are the primary source of West Nile Virus. There is no evidence to suggest that ticks or other insects transmit West Nile Virus.

Q. How many types of animals have been found to be infected with West Nile Virus?

A. Although the vast majority of infections have been identified in birds, West Nile Virus has been shown to infect horses, cats, bats, chipmunks, skunks, squirrels and domestic rabbits.

Q: What are the symptoms of West Nile Virus infection?

A: Most people who are infected with West Nile Virus either have no symptoms or experience mild illness such as a fever, headache and body aches before fully recovering. Some persons may develop a mild rash or swollen lymph glands. In some individuals, particularly the elderly, West Nile Virus can cause serious disease that affects brain tissue. At its most serious, it can cause permanent neurological damage and can be fatal. Symptoms of encephalitis (Inflammation of the brain) include the rapid onset of severe headache, high fever, stiff neck, confusion, loss of consciousness (coma), or muscle weakness, and may be fatal.

Q. How do health care providers test for West Nile Virus?

A. Your Physician will first take a medical history to assess your risk for West Nile Virus. If you are determined to be at high risk and have symptoms of West Nile encephalitis, your provider will draw a blood sample and send it to a commercial or public health laboratory for confirmation.

Q: How is West Nile encephalitis treated?

A: There is no specific therapy. In more severe cases, intensive supportive therapy is indicated i.e. hospitalization, intravenous fluids and nutrition, airway management, ventilatory support (ventilator) if needed, prevention of secondary infections (pneumonia, urinary tract infection etc.) and good nursing care.

Q. Is there a vaccine against West Nile Virus?

A. No. A vaccine for West Nile Virus does not exist.

Q. If a person contacts West Nile Virus, does that person develop a natural immunity to future infection by the Virus?

A. It is assumed that immunity will be life long, however, it may wane in later years.

Q. How long does it take to get sick if bitten by an infected mosquito?

A. Being bitten by an infected mosquito will not necessarily make you sick. Most people who are infected with West Nile virus have no symptoms or experience only mild illness. If illness were to occur, it would occur within 3 to 15 days of being bitten by an infected mosquito.

Q. What should I do if I think I have West Nile Encephalitis?

A. If you develop signs of encephalitis with fever, muscle weakness and confusion, you should seek medical care immediately.

Q. What can I do to reduce the risk of being infected with West Nile Virus?

A. From April to October, when Mosquito are most active, take the following precautions:

If outside from dusk to dawn, when mosquitoes are most active, or during the day in an area where there are weeds, tall grass, or bushes, people should wear protective clothing, such as long pants, loose fitting, long sleeved shirts and socks. Consider the use of an insect repellent containing DEET, according to the manufacturer's directions on the label.

Q. What can I do around my house to help reduce exposure to mosquitoes?

A. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing or slow moving water such as streams or creeks. Weeds, tall grass, and bushes provide an outdoor home for mosquitoes. They can enter homes through unscreened windows or doors or broken screens.

- Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens.
- Repair or replace all Screens that have tears or holes.
- Drain all standing water in the yard.
- Empty water from mosquito breeding sites, such as flowerpots, pet bowls, clogged rain gutters, swimming pool covers, discarded tires and similar sites in which mosquitoes lay eggs.
- Remind or help neighbors to eliminate breeding sites on their properties.

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