



# The Viewpoints

Newsletter of the Association of the Nepalese in Midwest America

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No.21

December, 1987

## ANMA To Meet in Carbondale

The Executive Committee of ANMA and the Nepalese community in Carbondale, Illinois have decided to hold the 1988 ANMA Annual Meeting in Carbondale during the Memorial Day weekend (May 28-29, 1988). All Nepalese living in or visiting the U.S. and all non-Nepalese who are interested in Nepal or Nepalese people are cordially invited to attend the annual ANMA event. We will publish more information about the meeting in the February issue of "The Viewpoints". Specific arrangements are being made by the following persons:

Mr. Deepak Neopane  
800 E. Grand, #208  
Carbondale, IL 62901  
618-549-0609

Dr. Madhav Sharma  
1024 S. Giant City Road  
Carbondale, IL 62901  
618-457-4022

Last September, the new executive committee of Nepalese Students Organization at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale was elected as follows:

Deepak Neopane	-- President
Subodh Uprety	-- Vice President
Vinita Shrestha	-- Secretary
Ravi Kiran	-- Member
Udaya Rajbhandari	-- Member

We look forward to seeing you in Carbondale.

## ANMA Executives Meet

Since the publication of the September issue of "The Viewpoints", the ANMA Executive Committee has met twice to carry out its activities. Among some of the actions taken by the Executive Committee are the following:

- (1) Mrs. Indira Koirala was appointed Associate Editor of "The Viewpoints".
- (2) ANMA will coordinate the donation of medical journals to medical libraries in Nepal. Dr Kanhaiya Das will lead ANMA's efforts in this area. Dr Das is planning to mail the journals to Nepal through Smithsonian Institution (free of cost). Interested people, please contact Dr. Das. His address is: 6220 Stansbury, Saginaw, MI 48603. Telephone: 517-790-9417
- (3) Duke University has informed Ram Bashyal that the University will contact him prior to the distribution of Nepalese language publications. Dr Subarna Pradhan will receive the publications from Duke University and maintain the collections which will be available to interested persons on a loan basis.
- (4) Dr. Surya K. Sharma offered to pay the annual subscription to "Nepal Press Digest" on behalf of ANMA. (Thank you, Dr. Sharma)

## Letter to the Editor

### A Quick Question!

The ANMA has a charter that recognizes "life" (time) membership. This is a nice way of raising funds for an association that has been newly established. Also, some of these members often serve as "protectors" or "alumni" and protect the association from falling apart in case an emergency arises. My question is -- "Why don't we have a single person committed to life membership?" Is it a lack of confidence about the integrity of the association? Or do the founders of the association never believed in long-term goals?

Why not have a "life" membership drive at this time?

Amar

(True name withheld at the writer's request.)

### Word of Support!

Thank you very much for your editorship of "The Viewpoints". This is the only way to make contact, inform ourselves, and tie our fragmented Nepalese individualism. It is a great leap toward greater leap which I whole heartedly support.

In this locality we are barely 5-6 Nepalese individuals. I like to lend my hand to enhance our organizational effort further.

Jagdishwar Devkota, M.D.

(Dr. Devkota lives in Columbia, Missouri. Currently, he is head of the Department of Neuroradiology at the University of Missouri. He has been active in various organizations. At present he serves as:

1. Trustee -- International College of Physicians.
2. President -- American College of Physicians, Missouri State
3. Delegate to Missouri State Medical Association
4. Member -- Various local and national medical societies

Dr. Devkota has three children -- Tarak (son), Dahlia, and Suzanne (daughters). He received his M.D. from Cairo University in 1969.)

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### NEPALESE PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Nepal Association, Indianapolis took an active part in the cultural show at the 1987 International Festival held in Indianapolis on October 23-25. The festival was participated by some forty different nationalities in a stimulating environment of international exchange. The three days of festival was attended by about 27,000 people.

The cultural booth of Nepal was visited heavily on all three days. The interest shown by visitors in Nepalese way of life, culture, arts and crafts etc was just overwhelming. The display at the Nepal booth itself consisted of posters, arts and crafts, and a continuous show of a two-hour video program on various aspects of Nepal.

The Nepal Association also took part in the parade of nations, which was marked by a pageantry with colorful ethnic costumes. The International Center of Indianapolis awarded a certificate of appreciation to Nepal Association. Congratulations!

### ANA ACCEPTS AD-HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

We have learned that the Executive Committee of the Association of Nepalis in the Americas (ANA) has recently agreed to the eight point recommendations made by the Ad-Hoc Committee appointed by the Joint Executive Committees of ANA and ANMA on September 1, 1985. ANMA had accepted these recommendations in good faith in May, 1986.

According to the Ad-Hoc Committee recommendations: (1) ANA and ANMA will continue to maintain their separate entities based on equality and mutual trust; (2) Each will extend to the other cooperation and support for the realization of each other's objectives for which the Association is founded; (3) Charitable trust which has been set up by ANMA will receive active support and participation by ANA; (4) The proposed cultural center by ANA will receive full support and participation by ANMA and they will work together in future planning of cultural activities; (5) Both of the organizations will work together to create a permanent dance drama group for the promotion of Nepalese culture and hopefully making it an instrument of fund raising activities; (6) ANA and ANMA will institute a joint committee to organize summer camps for teaching of Nepalese language and cultural heritage for the promotion of on-going knowledge of our roots to our children; (7) By raising its dues to \$30 and transferring \$5 to each other's treasurer, a member in one will enjoy the membership of the other association, thus sharing all the privileges accorded to a member by the by-laws; and (8) Both associations will establish a joint Literary Committee to publish an annual year book. This will contain essays, stories, poems, dramas and also pictures of each member's family. The final format, size, and scope will be determined by the Literary Committee in consultation with the Executives of both the organizations.

At the December 5 meeting held in Detroit, the ANMA Executive Committee directed President Ram Bashyal to contact ANA President Kamal Pathak and suggest a working meeting of officers of the two organizations in the near future for implementing the Ad-Hoc Committee's recommendations.

"The Viewpoints" will keep you informed of any progress in this regard. ANMA thanks the following persons who served on the Ad-Hoc Committee: Bishnu Poudel (Chairman), Kamal Pathak, Padma Paudel, and Sharda Thapa. The Committee did an outstanding job. Now it is time for the two organizations to implement the recommendations.

### ELECTION IN INDIANAPOLIS

At a meeting held in Indianapolis on October 25, 1987, Dr. Manoranjan N. Dhaubhadel was elected President and Mr. Kush N. Shrestha was elected Secretary/Treasurer of Nepal Association, Indianapolis. A get-together meeting for the members and interested American nationals who have either been to Nepal or who plan to visit Nepal in the near future, is being arranged.

### HAPPY WEDDING

Bala and Tracy Pant were happily married in Atlanta on November 28, 1987. The couple visited Detroit the following week to celebrate their wedding with their Midwest friends. Both Bala and Tracy are employed by the State of Georgia. Congratulations!

# Nepalese Associations: Where Are We Going?

In the September issue of "The Viewpoints" we raised several questions on the formation, organization, and activities of Nepalese associations in the United States. We invited the readers including the Presidents and Past Presidents of various Nepalese associations to write articles or letters to "The Viewpoints" outlining their views on this topic. We are pleased to report that we have received enthusiastic responses from several distinguished persons who have been active in this area. Their views are published below in alphabetical order of the author's name.

We feel that it is an important topic that should be discussed openly by members of the Nepalese community in this continent. "The Viewpoints" will continue to provide a common medium for such discussions. We invite the readers to send their views on this topic for publication in the February, 1988 issue of "The Viewpoints". In particular, we invite you to send your comments on the views published below. Please send your responses to the editor by February 15, 1988.

Editor

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## MR. RAM BASHYAL'S VIEWS

We the Nepalis in the America(s) have a great task and responsibility of maintaining our identity and living with the general larger American population. Those who choose to stay to make these countries their homes have a problem. We come from different backgrounds -- culturally, socially, and economically. The most difficult part is social and cultural integration. Though it seems easy on the surface, it is not so when we look deeply into the problem.

We have formed Associations wherever there is a sizeable population. Even one family kept the light burning (Ref. The Viewpoints, September, 1987). What messages are we sending and what satisfactions are we getting by forming the associations? We want to remind others and help them understand that Nepal and the Nepalese culture are alive. Look at our aims and goals -- are not we saying the same thing? How should we function? It is a big question to answer. As our membership grows we will have more active participants. I feel strongly that we should have a common platform to voice our views for which I suggest the following:

- (1) Call a meeting of all Nepali associations and form an ad-hoc committee to explore a common ground of acceptance and to report back to the associations within a limited period of time.
- (2) On the basis of recommendations by the ad-hoc committee, the associations should get together and form national and regional agendas and act on them. The activities we should commonly engage are cultural center, fund raising (trust), publications, library, and helping Nepali students.

Ram Bashyal  
President, ANMA

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## MR. VEDA JOSHI'S VIEWS

In simplicity, almost all these associations, no matter whether it is a Nepalese or America-Nepal Society, seem to be going in the same direction with a common goal. The purposes are almost identical such as foster friendship, promote and preserve Nepalese culture and identity, exchange ideas, socialize

and provide financial aid to the needy Nepalese for their education in Nepal, help build schools in Nepal and etc. etc.

What seems to be lacking among these associations is the coordination which was felt by many key organizers of these associations. Recently, some attempts were also made between the officers of ANA and ANMA and an ad-hoc committee was formed to investigate for possible coordination. It is obvious that we are trying to talk each other and establish some coordination among these associations.

It may not be a true statement to say that no one has ever attempted to obtain an accurate estimate of the number of Nepalese living in the United States. One time I have attempted to prepare a roster of the Nepalese in the United States (by the States). Some were kind to respond to my request to furnish me the list from different States, some did not bother. A copy of the list was submitted to the Ad-hoc committee to form ANA in 1982.

An accurate number of the Nepalese may not be possible for many reasons. Unless we have cooperation and initiative from every body, an accurate number of the Nepalese can not be obtained, no matter how hard one person or an organization may try.

We have also noticed that many Nepalese Societies popped up at the time of Their Majesties visit to the United States in 1983. Some survived, some did not.

The success of organizing a society or association depend on many factors. It is true that there is a need for one driving force. But just a driving force may not be sufficient without cooperation, initiative or support from other individuals. When I started California Chapter of the America-Nepal Society in 1973, I was very lucky to have the cooperation and support of many Nepalese as well as Americans. I ran the society for 11 years as President, re-elected every year (1973-1984). Even the by-laws were amended to waive the restriction that a Founder President can be re-elected for more than 4 years term continuously, as long as he is elected. After the 11th term, I voluntarily stepped down from the position to give chances to others. It was not easy to find individuals for the voluntary services. We still have hard time finding someone to volunteer for the position of President or any other positions for that matter.

In January 16, 1982 the Chapter took a new course and was incorporated as America-Nepal Society of California, Inc with a charitable, non-profit tax exempt status to include Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship grant for two women in the Nepal Colleges was first awarded in the 1984 academic year under ANS/CA-Betsy Goodall Scholarship Grant and have been continuing to this present date.

It was due to the collective efforts of many well-wishers this society and its scholarship activities are able to survive and going toward a final goal or destination. It is not possible to reach a goal without the cooperation, support, initiative, and unity among the group.

Speaking of the unity, it is the vital and most important part of any organization. Without this we will not achieve the goal. To be friendly and care for others are the qualities that all Nepalese have. Some may not realize this unless one opens up his or her mind and looks inside and unlocks this quality with a sense of cooperation and a little bit of sacrifice for others. Together we can achieve the goal.

I had an impression that some of the members of ad-hoc committee to form ANA (I was one of the members) were thinking of forming a parent organization with chapters in different States or regions. But to my surprise, ANMA was formed while we were still thinking of a parent organization.

Only one organization may not be able to represent all the Nepalese at all levels unless it has chapters at different regions or States. There is nothing wrong for having many organizations so long as there is a coordination, understanding, and unity among these organizations.

Let's work together for a better society and help each other for the best interest of all the Nepalese and its origins.

Veda B. Joshi  
Past President, California Chapter of the America-  
Nepal Society/ America-Nepal Society of California

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**DR. SAMBHU PANT'S VIEWS**

We should be happy that both ANA and ANMA have been able to meet at least certain needs of the Nepalese community in North America. In my view there is not enough communication between the two organizations. Only once ANA-ANMA executives have jointly met in March, 1986. They should meet and discuss common problems more often. A liason committee between the two organizations should be formed to bring about a coordination in the efforts of the two organizations and implement whatever is agreed upon. This will be a start of a dialog between these and other organizations with similar interests.

I wish officers and members of both organizations a Happy New Year.

Sambhu Pant  
Past president, ANMA

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**DR. PADAM PAUDEL'S VIEWS**

The geographical distribution of Nepalese in different cities and states has definite impact on periodical gathering among Nepalese. However, different Nepalese associations and societies have been formed in different states and cities. This has become the reality for the celebrations of Dasai or Tihar and other cultural activities.

Bigger associations such as ANMA and ANA are able to gather once a year on Memorial and Independence days.

We Nepalese now have come to a state that we are fairly organized local-regionally and we should encourage others to form local-regional societies in other cities wherever there are Nepalese. We live in different states and cities throughout this large country, and thus are not able to get together all in one place and celebrate our cultures, help each other as needed or enjoy picnics and other social activities.

It is now time for these associations to work cooperatively and jointly among themselves for our better existence. We need to form a Federation of these associations or societies which are throughout the country. It means that all these local-regional associations will function independently and normally, however will be a member of the Federation. The President and

Secretary or as designated from each of these existing associations will automatically become the executive members of the Federation. So annually or bi-annually or as decided by the executive committee, they will meet in different cities bringing the entire Nepalese interest into one and would be able to work effectively for social, cultural, and political purpose by this united force.

By-laws will be developed for legal business operation. Aims and objectives shall be spelled out clearly by the elected executive committee.

Padam Paudel  
Past President, ANMA

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#### DR. HARI SHARMA'S VIEWS

Nepali communities in North and South America combined are only a handful as compared to various ethnic groups in USA alone. Nepali community are mostly first generation immigrants and are scattered in diverse states with major concentration in and around few metropolitan cities.

Holding together a diverse community has never been a easy task. Witness the present trouble in Northern Ireland or in India, even the U.S. had to suffer the agony of civil war. Division, separation, and destruction comes easy in human society, but the integration, unition, and co-operation are difficult tasks to achieve. It requires visionary leaders, dedicated and selfless members, and a sustained effort. In the process of building a unified organization one will have to go through the experiences of hopelessness, helplessness, and frustrations. Yet if all of us keep the faith with our vision and keep working hard for a common good, we will achieve success of "unity in diversity".

Diversity and differences of opinion is healthy. One should keep its own identity, yet establish a common link with each other for a common good. Imagine a family unit of parents and their several children. They are diverse and yet unified. Therefore regional organizations are needed and are most welcome. All it needs is a common link.

The Association of Nepalīs in the Americas (ANA) is a non-profit organization incorporated in Washington, D.C. and has an IRS designation of a tax exempt status. It is non regional, has a broad base, has members from all major Nepali organizations, and has representatives throughout North and South America and in Nepal. It is already performing and deeply involved in various charitable, religious, cultural, and educational activities. Among the major objectives is the establishment of a Nepali Cultural Center with Lord Buddha and Pashupati Temple, an unique concept propagated by ANA in keeping with our culture, religion, and kingdom. For this purpose, ANA has already acquired a good-size piece of land in Greater Washington area. What it needs are valued colleagues and friends with selfless ideas and great vision. Any one can join ANA, participate and update its by-laws to accomodate changing times. All regional Nepali organizations can form a common link and participate in major projects for common good.

I welcome all individual and all regional organizations to communicate with our President and establish a link for common good.

Hari Sharma  
Past President, ANA

## NEWS FROM NEPAL

\* The third summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was held in Kathmandu from November 2 thru 4. It was attended by Their Majesties the Kings of Nepal and Bhutan, the Presidents of Bangladesh, Maldives, and Sri Lanka, and the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan. The inaugural session, at which India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi handed over the chairmanship to Nepal's His Majesty King Birendra was held in the Royal Nepalese Academy and was telecast live to millions of viewers in the seven member countries. It is reported that India and Pakistan clashed over Afganistan's admission into the seven-nation forum and on the nuclear non-proliferation issue. Bangladesh and Nepal too raised an issue which India considers to be a bilateral one -- the harnessing of river waters. Barring these issues, leaders from the seven South Asian countries lauded the progress of the new regional grouping in fostering cooperation.

\* On October 15, 1987, the United Nations General Assembly elected Nepal as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for 1988-89 by an overwhelming majority.

\* An address delivered by the outgoing American Ambassador to Nepal, Leon J. Veil, aroused considerable comment. Excerpts from the address:

-A hard reality is that Nepal has been living beyond its means, that without major increases in external assistance, Nepal cannot even afford to operate and maintain the existing level of government-provided goods and services.

-One of the biggest problems facing Nepal in the development field is, perhaps, that government, at all levels, has assigned a larger role to government than government can really play and perhaps has committed itself to plan more than can realistically be planned for.

-The two main prerequisites for development - resource base and/or a favorable economic environment are both lagging in Nepal. The difference between law and practice is immense.

-If the government is really serious about economic growth and development, then the rhetoric about the participation of the private sector must turn into action based on reality.

\* An Army court martial has sentenced Lt. Col. Bharat Gurung, an ex-aide to Prince Dhirendra, to a total 33 years of imprisonment and Rs. 2 million in fine on charges of narcotics, corruption, foreign currency, arms and ammunitions, smuggling, and attempt to murder journalist Padma Thakurathi. The former Inspector General of Police, Dil Bahadur Lama, was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment.

\* According to a National Rastriya Panchayat Committee, the number of Nepali refugees from the Indian State of Meghalaya has reached about 15,000, and between 80 and 150 more were arriving in Nepal every day.

\* Severe cold and high winds foiled an American team's attempt to put the first U.S. woman atop the world's highest peak. "I would like to come back", said Mimi Stone, 29, of Boston, whose attempt to scale 29,028-foot Mt. Everest failed by 1000 feet. Six women have set foot on the top of the Himalayan mountain, one each from Canada, China, India, Japan, Poland, and West Germany.

\* Introducing direct air services between Kathmandu and Lhasa, a Boeing-707 aircraft of the Civil Aviation Administration of China landed in Kathmandu on September 12 after one hour's flight from Lhasa.



## POUDEL ASSUMES LEADERSHIP OF ROTARY CLUB

In recognition of his outstanding service to the Rotary Clubs of Tysons Corner and Vienna, Bishnu Poudel has been elected District Governor of the newly formed District 761 of the Rotary International Clubs. District 761 includes the clubs in Northern Virginia, Charlottesville, Fredricksburg, a substantial portion of the Eastern shore, and all of the adjacent areas. Bishnu is a successful insurance consultant in Vienna, Virginia, specializing in employee benefit plans and personal financial planning. He holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Political Science and a Doctorate in International Studies. Bishnu is married with three grown children. His wife, Pramila also holds a Doctorate and is employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



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For several years, ANMA has maintained a directory of Nepalese in the United States. The directory is updated frequently by our Treasurer Sharda Thapa and is available free of cost to the members. For latest copy of the directory drop a note to Sharda Thapa, 655 W. Irving Park, #4215, Chicago, IL 60613, or call him at 312-935-6481. You can help Sharda by notifying change of address, arrival, or returning to Nepal.

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Treasurer Sharda Thapa reports that he has received membership fees from many persons who were unable to be at Cincinnati for the annual meeting. Thank you for your support. We hope you can join us at the next annual meeting in Carbondale.

We need your dues to keep "The Viewpoints" coming to all of you. Any additional contribution that you can make will be appreciated.

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### The Viewpoints

The Viewpoints is an official newsletter of The Association of the Nepalese in Midwest America. It is published four to six times a year. The Editorial Committee consists of:

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Ram Bashyal, President, ANMA (ex officio)  
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**News Policy:** The news published in The Viewpoints will receive the following priorities:

- (1) News about ANMA and its members
- (2) News from Nepal
- (3) News relating to Nepal and the Nepalese from other parts of the world
- (4) Any other news that may be of interest to ANMA members

**Advertising Policy:** Display advertisement rates are as follows: full page, \$100; half page, \$50; quarter page, \$25. No advertisements will be published in the front page.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES/ RENEWALS\***

You will help us greatly in our job if you mail your check or M.O. for membership dues/renewals to ANMA, c/o Sharda Thapa, 655 W. Irving Park #4215, Chicago, Il. 60613

Thank you very much!

-----Please tear this portion and mail it with your payment-----

Name ----- Occupation -----

Spouse ----- Occupation -----

Address -----  
-----

Telephone -----

Name of Children -----

Check membership category:

Student \$10 ----- Individual \$15 ----- Family \$25 -----  
Life \$250 ----- Benefactor \$100+ ----- Other Donation \$-----

\* New members please use the same form.

We encourage non-Midwest residents as well to send us membership dues and participate in the Association and Newsletter activity.

If undelivered, return to:  
Indira Koirala  
35133 Glengary Circle  
Farmington Hills, MI 48018

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AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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