



The Viewpoints

Newsletter of the Association of the Nepalese in Midwest America

No.22

February, 1988

Open Invitation

You are cordially invited to attend the 1988 Annual Meeting of the Association of the Nepalese in Midwest America (ANMA) to be held in Carbondale, Illinois on Sunday, May 29, 1988 (Memorial Day Weekend).

The ANMA endeavors to preserve and promote Nepalese identity and culture in the U.S.A., to promote social activities, and to keep the members informed of each other. Our primary activities include holding an annual meeting in a Midwest city, publishing "The Viewpoints" 5-6 times a year, and maintaining a directory of Nepalese in the U.S. All Nepalese who are permanently or temporarily living in the U.S. and all non-Nepalese who are interested in Nepal or the Nepalese people are encouraged to participate in the activities of ANMA.

We are pleased that this year's annual meeting will be held in Carbondale. Dr. Madhav Sharma, College of Technical Careers, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale is the local organizer of the meeting. Dr. Sharma has made plans for an enjoyable and informative meeting at the "Touch of Nature", a natural environment park operated by the University.

We have learnt from Dr. Sharma that he has tentatively arranged for Hon'ble Jai Pratap Rana, Nepal's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, to be present at the meeting. Dr. Sharma promises that a well balanced program of speakers, discussions, and entertainment will highlight a relaxed weekend in the rolling hills and lakes of Southern Illinois.

Detailed information about the gathering are being directly mailed to ANMA members and friends by Dr. Sharma on February 25, 1988. Please mark your calendar now for a wonderful time and send your confirmation on or before March 25, 1988.

If you have not received the above-mentioned information, please contact Dr. Sharma at: 1024 S. Giant City Road, Carbondale, IL 62901. Telephone: 618-457-4022.

Nominating Committee

President Ram Bashyal has requested Mr. Raj Rathi to chair the Nominating Committee for 1988-89. The Committee will submit its recommendations and conduct elections during the Carbondale Meeting. The other members of the Nominating Committee are Dr. Padam Paudel and Mrs. Pat Thakur. A Nomination Form prepared by the Committee is published on page 2.

NOMINATION FORM

The Nominating Committee requests you to send nominations for candidates to be members of ANMA Executive Committee for 1988-89. You may send nominations for one or more positions.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominee</u> (please fill in)
President	-----
Vice-President	-----
Vice-President	-----
Secretary	-----
Treasurer	-----

In addition, there are five executive members who may coordinate the following activities:

Member	-----	(Public Relations)
Member	-----	(Fund Raising/Trust)
Member	-----	(Membership)
Member	-----	(Cultural Activity)
Member	-----	(Youth Program)

Signature -----

Last day to receive nominations: May 15, 1988.

Please phone-in or mail-in nomination form to:

Raj Rathi, Chairperson	Padam Paudel	Pat Thakur
14E Lakeshore Drive #26	2009 Midwest Club	3445 Craigmoor Av.
Cincinnati, OH 45237	Oakbrook, IL 60521	Toledo, OH 43614
513-761-4762	312-323-5156	419-385-0543

The following is a preliminary list compiled by the Nominating Committee to help you focus on recently active people. The names mentioned here, by no means, form a complete list and you are free to add other people to this tabulation. An updated list will be published in the April issue of "The Viewpoints". You can self-nominate yourself.

- Surendra Bhattarai, Flint, Michigan (313) 238-8454
- Kanhaiya Das, Saginaw, Michigan (517) 790-9417
- Jagdishvar Devkota, Columbia, Missouri (314) 443-2149
- Manoranjan Dhauvadel, Indianapolis, Indiana (317) 875-0646
- Dinesh Koirala, Indira Koirala, Farmington Hills, Mich. (313) 553-9187
- Rajeeb Lamsal, Tallahassee, Florida (904) 222-9876
- Hari Pandey, Chicago, Illinois (312) 743-2056
- Balaram Pant, Atlanta, Georgia (404) 460-0665
- Prahlad Pant, Cincinnati, Ohio (513) 681-2337
- Usha Paudel, Oakbrook, Illinois (312) 323-5156
- Bishnu Poudel, Vienna, Virginia (703) 759-3954
- Raj Rathi, Cincinnati, Ohio (513) 761-4762
- Sukhdev Shah, Alexandria, Virginia
- Kumud Sharma, Toronto, Canada (416) 453-4715
- Madhav Sharma, Carbondale, Illinois (618) 457-4022
- Surya K. Sharma, Moline, Illinois (309) 764-4173
- Nirakar Thakur, Toledo, Ohio (419) 385-0543
- Sharda Thapa, Wendy Thapa, Chicago, Illinois (312) 935-6481

Raj Rathi, Chairperson
Nominating Committee

Nepalese Associations: Where Are We Going?

(Part 3)

In September 1987, "The Viewpoints" presented several questions to its readers on the formation, organization, and activities of Nepalese associations in the United States. We received enthusiastic responses from Presidents and Past Presidents of several Nepalese associations, which were published in the December 1987 issue of "The Viewpoints". Recently we have received additional responses from three distinguished persons that are published below in alphabetical order of the author's name.

"The Viewpoints" will continue to provide a common medium for discussions on this important topic. It is our belief that an open discussion of this nature can only benefit the Nepalese community in this continent. Already we have noticed several commonalities as well as differences among the views expressed by the authors. We invite the readers to send their views on this topic for publication in the April, 1988 issue of "The Viewpoints". Please send your responses to the editor by April 10, 1988.

Editor

MR. DIBYA HADA'S VIEWS

As we all know the history of the Nepalese community is rather short when compared to others. From the time it started until now through the hard work of its members, it has progressed very rapidly. I am confident that the Nepalese residents can be counted upon to contribute in all the efforts that are being made for the betterment of the quality of life in the area.

On April, 1983 America-Nepal Friendship Society was born in New York with merely 16 members and was incorporated under "not for profit" corporation law of the State of New York. Within six months period, the number of its members had increased to 120 and at present the Society has about 200 members including United States Senators Daniel Moynihan, Alfonse D'Amato and former Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger as honorary members. Thus, we have received tremendous support from all sections of people genuinely interested in fostering the ties of friendship between America and Nepal. In April 14, 1987 we celebrated 40th anniversary of our diplomatic relation and the program was televised coast to coast.

The Society has been taking part in many social and cultural events that helped lot of American friends to understand about Nepal and Nepalese people. The first Nepalese parade in North America was held on July 5, 1986 to celebrate the centenary of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbour. This gave an opportunity to millions of people to watch Nepalese music and dance at the parade.

I am thankful to all our Nepalese friends who have helped to collect funds for landslide victims in Nepal. I appreciate Dr. Hari Sharma for his fund raising campaign to construct a "Nepali Cultural Center" in America. I would like to appeal to all our American, Canadian and Nepali friends to help Dr. Sharma to make his campaign a grand success. Please remember "the joy of giving can be experienced only by the act of giving".

On behalf of America-Nepal Friendship Society I would like to extend my deep appreciation to all founder members of the Associations in the America for their valuable time and efforts put together to achieve our common goals.

Dibya Hada, President
American-Nepal Friendship Society, Inc., Jamaica, New York

Mr. RAJ RATHI'S VIEWS: Reading Between The Lines

To be friendly and care for others are the qualities that all Nepalese are born with. Those of us who have chosen to stay in this country, however, have a bigger task to perform, says Ram Bashyal, President of ANMA.* This task includes maintaining Nepali identity in this country, cultural integration with local people, and helping not-so-fortunate people in Nepal. Some of us have been doing these assignments on a personal basis for a long time. At a different level, several local and regional Nepali associations have emerged in the recent past to achieve similar goals. It is now being felt strongly and has been a key-point of debate that we need a national body to represent all the Nepalese in this country (and the continent). The major contribution of such an alliance will be to raise concerns that are unique to Nepalese population as a whole. For example, to have a Nepal Cultural Center in Washington D.C., to have representation to the Nepalese Embassy for the problems related to passports and visas. So far, no single association has been able to perform all such tasks to majority satisfaction.

The Association of Nepalis in the Americas (ANA) incorporated in Washington, D.C. claims itself as a non-regional and diversified body. "It is already performing and deeply involved in various charitable, religious, cultural and educational activities", says Hari Sharma, Past President of ANA. At the same time, this association claims to be performing local and regional level activities such as occasional gathering at "Dashain". Several Nepalese have indicated their dissatisfaction with Mr. Sharma's claim. ANA has not been able to work at regional and national levels to its members' satisfaction. For example, Past President of ANMA, Padam Paudel, maintains that a single association of Nepalese can not perform a dual duty of satisfying local and national needs. "The geographical distribution of Nepalese in different cities and states has definite impact on periodical gathering among Nepalese", he insists. For example, how many of us from New York will be able to attend an annual meeting of ANA held in Los Angeles? Besides, several other local and regional associations are functioning independent of each other for a long time and their existence can not be denied, demolished or undermined. "Only one organization may not be able to represent all the Nepalese at all levels unless it has chapters at different regions or States", observes Veda Joshi, Past President of America-Nepal Society (ANS) of California. There is, therefore, a majority agreement among Nepalese that we need a national body to coordinate activities of several (already formed or forming) associations and at the same time let local associations function independently. Of course, any Nepali will be welcomed by any such association regardless of a person's background or state of residency.

A mass consensus among Nepalese I have talked to indicated that we should form an alliance of local and regional associations. This federation, in turn, may consist of representatives from each of the regional bodies and will coordinate activities and also help avoid duplication of efforts. An example of such coordination was recently displayed by ANMA and ANA, the two stronger of Nepalese associations. An ad-hoc liaison committee has made several recommendations to coordinate efforts, such as supporting charitable trust of ANMA and proposed plan of ANA to construct a Nepal Cultural Center. The bulletin activity is another area where duplication of effort can vastly be eliminated. Such coordinated activities will be welcomed by all members. However, on a different side, these two associations plan to raise their dues by \$5 which will be passed on from one to another. This idea of passing money between these two associations can not continue if a third strong association joins the hand and must be re-thought over. Sambhu Pant, another Past

* All references relate to the articles published in "The Viewpoints", Dec. 87

President of ANMA, does not believe that there is enough communication between the two organizations in reality. There is a lack of an enforcing body that will supervise the recommendations. Thus, a supervisory body made of league of associations, call it Nepalese Associations of America (NAA), is thus a requirement at this time. This NAA will have its own by-laws and be represented by one or upto two members from each of the local or regional associations. In my opinion, the vice-presidents from each of the regional associations (whose roles are normally very undefined) must represent their associations in this federation. If their are more than 50 members in a regional association, then two members (the vice-president and the treasurer) will participate in the federation meetings. The NAA will seek to coordinate activities of various associations and seek to avoid duplications by dividing the work. The associations which are stronger in certain areas may retain their superiority in those areas (e.g. the newsletter activity of ANMA) while associations strategically located may continue to provide their leadership in resolving other problems (e.g. coordination with the embassy by the Nepalese association in Washington, D.C.)

It is time to join hands together and start building a future for the next generation.

Raj Rathi
Past Editor, "The Viewpoints"

Mr. SUKHDEV SHAH'S VIEWS: Where Is Our Culture?

It was during a Florida visit way back in December 1974 that Dr. Hari Sharma, the Past President of the ANA, told me about the need to establish a Nepali cultural association in America. He argued that we, as adults, may be able to carry on our cultural traditions in this country, for the simple reason that that was the part of life we brought with us when we came here. He was, however, concerned over whether our children would be able to do the same unless we had an organization to help them learn our values and keep the sense of "Nepaliness" alive after we are gone.

Now that we have had our organizations -- ANA, ANMA, and the like -- for some years, let us see what we are doing to sustain our cultural values.

My son is only 12 years old but he has visited Nepal almost half a dozen times, including three visits to my village in the Dhanukha district in the eastern Terai. On one recent evening, he saw me reading the World Development Report and asked me about its content. I did some explaining, even though he was quite immature for the subject, adding that Nepal has remained very poor, with a per capita income of just about \$150, compared with \$17,000 for the United States. I explained to him what the per capita income meant and he was quick to calculate that \$150 is about 3,000 Nepalese rupees per individual per year. He seemed amused by this 3,000 rupee figure and told me that I must be kidding if I believed that those poor villagers each earned 3,000 rupees per year. He added that from what he had seen of the villages, the villagers would be lucky to get even 5 rupees a day and, further, they may have children and a non-full-time working wife to take care of. Thus, by most liberal calculation, he came up with an estimate of no more than Rs 3 a day or Rs 1,000 a year per capita, equivalent to \$50. Now, this was not the money figure he was talking about--he had actually seen how the villages looked and how the people lived. In addition to going to my village, my son had traveled on buses from Kakarvitta in the extreme east of the country to Janakpur and from Kathmandu to Pokhara, the two trips together comprising about two thirds of the country's total east-west distance. What he saw on those trips was a horrifying face of Nepal--masses of people illfed, illhoused, illiterate, and thoroughly abused.

We come back to Kathmandu, where we stay in hotels, drink bottled water, and generally avoid eating out, including accepting invitations for meals from many friends and relatives. My son asks: "How come you are a tourist in your own country?" I explain that Kathmandu's water is almost poisonous because the water and sewer lines are mixed up and the use of such water was causing dreadful diseases in the city, such as the hepatitis epidemic, currently affecting about one half of Kathmandu residents. Also, owing to the almost complete absence of public sanitation services, tuberculosis is returning at an alarming rate, infecting a large proportion of the population, according to some estimates. So, I explained, however much I love my country, I am hesitant to live like my countrymen and be like them.

My son persists. Why can't the Government do something to alleviate poverty in the villages, to clean up Kathmandu, to make life more livable for common people? I tell him that, in our culture, you are born into a certain situation and you accept it as God-given. What this means is that the leaders are not accountable for people's fate. Like poverty, wealth and leadership are also ordained by God and there is nothing one can or should do to disturb this divine arrangement.

My son now seems totally dispirited about my culture. He confesses that the Nepalese culture to him, until now, had meant the Nepalese songs and dances, which he had come to enjoy at the ANA/ANMA gatherings.

What is our true culture? I do not know.

Sukhdev Shah
Alexandria, VA

AMBASSADOR BISHWA PRADHAN RECALLED

Nepal Ambassador Denies Shoplifting

The Ambassador of Nepal said yesterday accusations that he tried to steal two medical books from a downtown store are untrue and the result of an unfortunate mistake.

Ambassador Bishwa Pradhan was accused on Christmas Eve of walking out of a bookstore with two medical books under his coat.

Police were called, but when Mr. Pradhan displayed his credentials, he was released because of diplomatic immunity.

The ambassador said he was humiliated by the incident.

He said the books were meant for his daughter, a medical student in Pakistan, and that he took them from the store to check against a letter in his car from his daughter describing the books she needed.

"I saw the lady busy with the other customers and, in the meantime I wanted to check, you know," Mr. Pradhan said in an interview with WUSA-TV. "My driver was in front of the bookstore. I wanted to verify this thing."

(Washington Times, December 31, 1987)

Diplomatic Immunity? Nepal Shoplifting Suspect Ousted

Washington (UPI) - Nepal's ambassador to the United States must return to his country as the result of his brief detention for suspected shoplifting on Christmas Eve, a Nepal Embassy spokesman said.

Ambassador Bishwa Pradhan, 54, has been told to return home by the end of this month, the spokesman said Monday, asking that he not be identified.

Pradhan was detained by District of Columbia Police Dec 24 when he was suspected of attempting to shoplift two medical books from Reiter's Scientific and Professional Books on Pennsylvania Avenue in Northwest Washington about five blocks west of the White House.

Police released him once they realized he was a diplomat and had immunity from prosecution in the case.

Store manager Jim Wood said Monday that Pradhan set off the store's alarm system when he tried to walk out of the store with two National Board Review books worth \$44.

The embassy spokesman described the incident as a "misunderstanding".

But I think under the situation, they (foreign ministry officials) felt his continuation of service would not look good here," the spokesman said.

Wood declined comment on the diplomat's recall.

The embassy spokesman said Pradhan was in the bookstore buying the medical books and went to the door to ask his driver to bring a letter from his daughter, who had requested the purchase.

"He wanted to recheck the title of the book. He wanted to shout at the driver from the doorway, but the bookstore employees thought he was about to leave without paying," said the spokesman.

A spokesman for the State Department said Monday he was not familiar enough with the case to comment.

Pradhan, a career diplomat, has been in Washington for two years. He had concurrent diplomatic accreditation for Canada and Latin America.

Pradhan previously served as foreign secretary and ambassador to Egypt.

(The Daily Dispatch, Moline, Illinois, January 5, 1988)

Press Excerpts

NEPALESE SUFFER IN DARJEELING AND MEGHALAYA

Gurkha Homes Burn As Police Hunt For Rebels

Entire villages have been burned to the ground and hundreds of families made homeless in a crackdown on Gurkha separatists in the Darjeeling hills neighbouring Nepal.

The main victims of the hard-hitting drive by the West Bengal government have been innocent civilians, while the Gurkha militants have fled across the border into Nepal, which they are using as a springboard for their attacks on government property and the security forces.

The Gurkha National Liberation Front began to make demands for a separate "Gurkhaland" two years ago. Violence followed and an attempt last month to assassinate Darjeeling's police chief sparked off government reprisals in surrounding villages.

Hundreds of para-military police arrived in the village of Manebhangyan and burned its 90 houses and shops to the ground. Chimni, a smaller village near the town of Kurseong, was attacked a week later. Bagora, a small village near Chimni, has also been almost destroyed.

Many Gurkhas from Nepal have over the years crossed into India looking for better economic prospects and have stayed on in Darjeeling, where they now constitute more than 60% of the population. But they feel that they get the worst jobs no matter how well-educated they are, while all the plum jobs go to Bengalis. They also complain that they are considered as neither Indian nor Nepalese citizens.

Separatist agitation was sparked off in 1986 by the decision of the government of the state of Meghalaya to expel hundreds of Nepalese. The nearly 6m Gurkhas living in West Bengal and elsewhere in India feared the same fate and pressure grew for their own state.

Sunday Times, London, January 17, 1988

Indian Police Raid Nepali Towns

A spokesman of the Nepal Home Ministry stated that on December 14 a group of Indian policemen had intruded into the town of Manebhanjyang on the Nepali side of the border in the course of an armed operation, set some houses on fire, looted some property, and manhandled some people. The spokesman added, "His Majesty's Government has taken a serious view of the incident. It has already lodged a protest with the Government of India."

Gorkhapatra, Kathmandu, December 18, 1987

Gorkha Issue: Hopes For Peace Soar

Substantial progress towards achieving an "agreed solution" of the Darjeeling hill areas Gorkha problem was officially reported to have been reached on January 25.

This was the outcome of the first tripartite talks among India's Home Minister Buta Singh, West Bengal state Chief Minister Jyoti Basu and the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) leader Subhash Ghising preceded by marathon discussions among their aides.

India Tribune, Chicago, January 30

Basu Warns on Talks with Gurkhas

West Bengal's Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu, "will not go to Delhi for any discussions on the Darjeeling hill area issue" if the militant GNLF delegation does not come to Calcutta, the state capital, this week for a final round of three-way talks, Basu said in Calcutta.

Reacting to GNLF president Subhas Ghising's refusal to come to Calcutta, Basu said on Jan. 28: "in that case there will be no further discussion. Let the GNLF do what it wants to and we will do whatever is required to be done."

Ghising said the GNLF had submitted a draft agreement to the central and state governments and had asked New Delhi to be the "guarantor" of the tripartite agreement.

The name of the proposed council as demanded in the draft should either be "The Darjeeling Gurkha Hill Council" or "The Gurkha Hill Council Darjeeling", Ghising said.

India Abroad, New York, February 5

Nepali-Speaking Refugees from Meghalaya

According to the Nepal Home Ministry, about 7,000 Nepali-speaking people from Meghalaya, India, had so far arrived in Nepal. It stated, "These people have been accused of being aliens and have also been subjected to terror tactics, although they had been living in Meghalaya for several years."

Rising Nepal, Kathmandu, December 11, 1987

Other News From Nepal

* The government has suspended Chairman Haribol Bhattarai and Vice-Chairman Tirtha Dangol of Kathmandu Town Panchayat on the ground that they had boycotted the King Mahendra Memorial and Constitution Day function on December 16 and thus not participated in a function meant to strengthen partyless Panchayat system (Rising Nepal, December 26). It may be recalled that both persons were members of the outlawed Nepali Congress. Later the government suspended several other Pancha office-bearers in the country for boycotting the functions on December 16.

* Ian Stewart, Minister of State for the Armed Forces of Britain said in Kathmandu that Britain wanted Gurkhas in the British Army in Hong Kong to continue even after 1997, and added, "We would need to take into account all operational needs of the British Army". (Rising Nepal, January 14)

Need a Directory?

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 ANMA 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.

Prahlad Pant Serves On Blue-Ribbon Commission

Recently Prahlad Pant, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Cincinnati, served as one of the subcommittee team leaders of the City of Cincinnati Infrastructure Commission chaired by John Smale, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Proctor and Gamble Company. The Commission was formed last year by Mayor Charles Luken to assess Cincinnati's infrastructure (physical assets consisting of roads and bridges, parks, recreation, buildings, solid waste disposal, water, and sewers) and make recommendations to bring it back to excellent condition. The study defines the needs and recommends financing to accomplish the tasks. The Commission consisted of 200 technical professionals and community leaders who volunteered over 10,000 hours toward the common goal. The Commission's report which was submitted to the City Council last December has received wide and favorable coverages in local media.

Raj Rathi Nominated

Raj Rathi, an electrical engineer with General Electric Aircraft Engines in Cincinnati, Ohio received two nominations for Engineer's Day awards. One of the nominations was for "Manufacturing Engineering Award" and the other one for "Young Engineer's Award". Raj continues to be with Vision Technology group as an Advanced Inspection Systems Engineer.

**The Viewpoints**

The Viewpoints is an official newsletter of The Association of the Nepalese in Midwest America. It is published 5-6 times a year. The Editorial Committee consists of:

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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.

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

Please join ANMA. Membership is open to every one residing in the U.S.A. and Canada. The membership fee includes subscription to "The Viewpoints". An updated Directory of The Nepalese in The U.S. is yours for asking.

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.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If your address has changed or if you have just arrived in the United States, please inform us of your new address by mailing this form to ANMA, c/o Sharda Thapa, 655 W. Irving Park #4215, Chicago, Il. 60613

Name -----

New Address -----

New telephone -----

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

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