

The Viewpoints

Newsletter of the Association of the Nepalese in Midwest America

No. 23

April, 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 Meeting is hosted by the Nepalese Students Association and sponsored by the College of Technical Careers at Southern Illinois University.

In keeping with the ANMA tradition of preserving and promoting Nepalese identity and culture in the United States, we have planned a gathering of Nepalese people and their friends in one of the most interesting and beautiful locations in the Midwest. The Annual Meeting will be held at the "Touch of Nature" - a scenic, wonderful, and uniquely natural environment park operated by Southern Illinois University. Modern lodging will be provided in this park setting and recreational opportunities will be available for all participants.

The activities for the Meeting include fun, friendship, Nepalese food, and the exchange of information important to you, your family and your friends. The Honorable Sailendra Kumar Upadhyay, Foreign Minister of Nepal, and the Honorable Jai Pratap Rana, Nepal's Ambassador to the United Nations, are expected to be our featured guests and speakers. A well balanced program of speakers, discussions, and entertainment will highlight a relaxed weekend in the rolling hills and lakes of Southern Illinois, especially the "Touch of Nature".

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

A joint meeting of ANMA Executive Committee and the Nepalese Students Association at Southern Illinois University was held on April 1 in Carbondale, Illinois to discuss the arrangements for the upcoming ANMA Annual Meeting. It was attended by a large number of students and their families at S.I.U. who hosted a barbecue dinner. (Believe it or not, the temperature touched 80 degrees on this early spring day). The participants whole-heartedly and unanimously supported the formation of an **Organizing Committee** which will be responsible for coordinating and organizing all activities for the ANMA Annual Meeting. The committee consists of Dr. Prahlad Pant (Chairman), Dr. Madhav Sharma (member), and Deepak Neopane (member). If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact these people or the contact persons for specific areas listed in the following page.

Hope to see you in Carbondale!!

CONTACT PERSONS FOR ANMA ANNUAL MEETING

<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Area</u>
Dr. Madhav Sharma	Off: (618) 536-6682 Home: (618) 457-4022	Accommodations, Brochures, Announcements and "Touch of Nature"
Mr. Deepak Neopane	(618) 549-0609	Luncheon and Park Arrangement
Dr. Srijana Bajracharya	(618) 549-4528	Talent Show
Mrs. Shanti Kapali	(618) 549-7769	Cooking Supervision
Mr. Upendra Lal Karna	(618) 549-6302	Symposium
Mr. Bimal Devkota	(618) 529-9388	Paper presentation
Mr. Subodh Uprety	(618) 529-9388	Babysitting
Mr. Sharda Thapa	(312) 935-6481	Registration
Mr. Sudarsan Aryal		
Mr. Bamadev Sigdel		
Miss Udaya Rajbhandari	(618) 529-3393	Childrens Program
Mr. Ratna Kapali	(618) 549-7769	Conference Hall Decoration
Mr. Bickram Rana		
Mr. Dharma Raj Shakya	(618) 529-6032	Reception
Mr. Dharma Raj Thapa	(618) 529-9388	

Meeting Information and Registration

(Please note: To serve you better, we have made some changes in reservation procedures and costs.)

Participants should arrange to arrive in Carbondale as early as possible on Saturday, May 28. This will give you time to enjoy the conference grounds and "settle-in" with friends. The program will begin on Sunday morning, May 29.

"Touch of Nature" is located in a vast natural area with woods, lakes, and recreational features. It is designed to preserve a natural setting next to wildlife preserves, and because of this unique feature, it attracts conferences and meeting groups of all sizes. Consequently, there are a number of lodging options open to ANMA members. These options range from dormitory style accommodations to private rooms with or without private baths (or a nearby Holiday Inn). Depending upon your needs, please select the appropriate lodging for your visit.

(Please inform us in advance if you plan to arrive by air, bus or train; we will be delighted to arrange a pick up.)

Lodging Options

Fee

Cabin (8-10 in a cabin; unlimited)	\$10 per night
Private room at the "Touch of Nature" (two queen-size beds without private bath; 18 units available)	\$30 per night
Private room at the "Touch of Nature" (two queen-size beds with private bath; 12 units available)	\$40 per night

(No extra charge for children in private rooms. Please send your confirmation immediately for lodging at the "Touch of Nature". You must send check, no credit cards accepted.)

Holiday Inn \$40 per night
plus \$ 6 per person

(For lodging at Holiday Inn, please call 1-800-HOLIDAY -free call- to confirm your reservation. Confirm your reservation three (3) weeks in advance to qualify for special rates.)

REGISTRATION FOR THE 1988 ANMA ANNUAL MEETING

Please help us organize the meeting by checking the appropriate choices and mailing this form with your check today. We must have your confirmation **IMMEDIATELY.**

Registration

Registration fee: \$15 per person (children eight years and under are free). Registration fee includes lunch and dinner. \$15 x _____

Student's Special Conference Package: \$ 25 per person (includes 2 nights lodging, Sunday meals, and registration fee) \$25 x _____

Lodging

Dormitory style cabin at the "Touch of Nature" \$10 x 2 nights _____

Private Room at the "Touch of Nature" without private bath \$30 x 2 nights _____

Private Room at the "Touch of Nature" with private bath \$40 x 2 nights _____

Holiday Inn (make your own reservation) Call 1-800-HOLIDAY

Total payable _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Number of persons in my group _____

I will be arriving on _____ at (approximate time) _____

I will be happy to participate as a performer in the social talent show yes _____ no _____

I would like to:

- Sing _____
 - Dance _____
 - Play a musical instrument _____
 - Take part in a fashion show _____
 - Participate in a group discussion _____
 - Present paper _____
 - Bring Nepali artifacts for exhibition _____
- Topic suggestion _____
(one page abstract must be submitted)

Please mail this form immediately together with our confirmation check to:

Dr. Madhav P. Sharma, Conference Coordinator, ANMA
c/o College of Technical Careers
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901

ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

Morning

9:00 - 10:00
10:00 - 11:30

Registration
Symposium/Papers

Afternoon

12:00 - 1:30
2:00 - 5:00

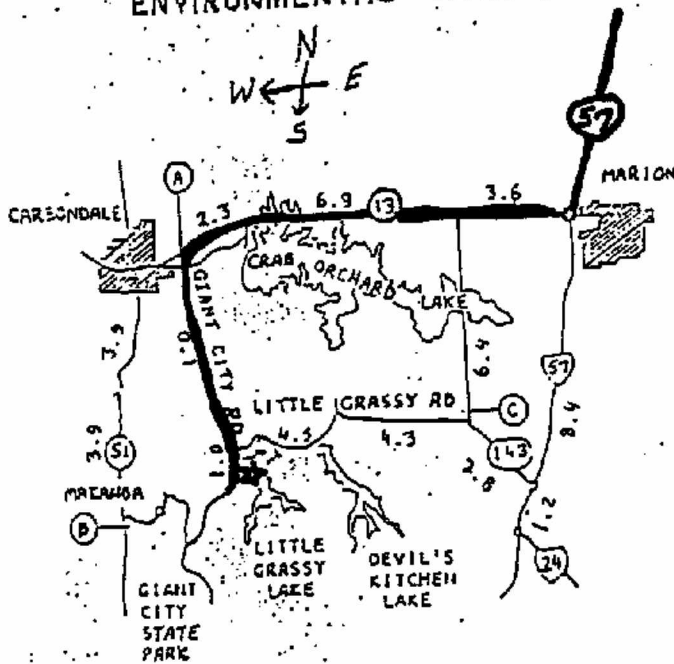
Lunch at the park
Open meeting
Guest speakers
Reports from outgoing officers
Election of new officers
Open discussions

Evening

5:30 - 6:30
6:30 - 7:30
7:30 - 9:00

Social hour (Cash bar will be open)
Dinner
Cultural program

REGIONAL ORIENTATION
TO TOUCH OF NATURE
ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



★ TOUCH OF NATURE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

- SHAPING*
- A - UNIVERSITY MALL (WEST OF GIANT CITY ROAD)
 - B - MAKAMOA WATER TOWER (SOUTHEAST OF INTERSECTION, 7.6 MILES TO TOUCH OF NATURE)
 - C - SOUTHERN ILLINOIS BARN (NORTHWEST OF INTERSECTION)

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. The elections will be held on Sunday, May 29, 1988 during the ANMA Annual Meeting in Carbondale, IL.

Position Nominee (please fill in)

- President -----
- Vice-President -----
- Vice-President -----
- Secretary -----
- Treasurer -----
- Member -----
- Member -----
- Member -----
- Member -----
- Member -----

Signature -----

Last day to receive nominations: May 15, 1988.

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

Raj Rathi, Chairperson
14E Lakeshore Drive #26
Cincinnati, OH 45237
513-761-4762

Padam Paudel
2009 Midwest Club
Oakbrook, IL 60521
312-323-5156

Pat Thakur
3445 Cragmoor Av.
Toledo, OH 43614
419-385-0543

The following is an updated 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. You can self-nominate yourself.

- Surendra Bhattarai, Flint, Michigan (313) 238-8454
- Kanhaiya Das, Saginaw, Michigan (517) 790-9417
- Pradeep Dhital, Flint, Michigan
- Jagdishwar 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
- Deepak Neopane, Carbondale, Illinois (618) 549-0609
- 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 (703) 671-8832
- Kumud Sharma, Toronto, Canada (416) 453-4715
- Madhav Sharma, Carbondale, Illinois (618) 457-4022
- Vijaya Shrestha, Bowling Green, Ohio (419) 352-5984
- Surya K. Sharma, Moline, Illinois (309) 764-4173
- Nirakar Thakur, Toledo, Ohio (419) 385-0543
- Meena Thapa, Troy, Michigan (313) 828-0285
- Sharda Thapa, Wendy Thapa, Chicago, Illinois (312) 935-6481

Nepalese Associations: Where Are We Going?

(Part 4)

In the September, 1987 issue of "The Viewpoints" we presented several questions to our readers on the formation, organization, and activities of Nepalese associations in the United States. The responses received from Presidents and Past Presidents of several Nepalese associations as well as from other individuals were published in the December 1987 and February 1988 issues of "The Viewpoints". Recently we received an article from Dr. Srijana Bajracharya that is published below.

"The Viewpoints" will continue to provide a common forum for expression of ideas on important topics concerning the Nepalese community in this continent. Already we have noticed several commonalities as well as differences among the views expressed by the authors. Please contact the editor if you wish to receive a copy of the previous articles in this series.

We invite you to send your views on this topic for publication in the June, 1988 issue of "The Viewpoints". Please send your responses to the editor by June 1, 1988.

Editor

DR. SRIJANA BAJRACHARYA'S VIEWS: What Is Our Culture?

It has been a pleasure to receive "The Viewpoints" with valuable information on perspectives of Nepalese culture. I am thankful to ANMA for making such communication possible among us in order to exchange our ideas. Going through the different views, however, I was quite disappointed to see the interpretation of our culture expressed by Mr. Sukhdev Shah in his views "Where Is Our Culture?"

In my opinion, the poverty, disease and political situation of a country are not totally results of its culture. We should not forget that Nepal is a victim of its geography and its history. The Rana rulers' isolation kept Nepal from its historical development for 104 years. We were as confined as the stagnant water from our historical development for such a long period of time, while the rest of the world was efficiently growing and proliferating with new development.

The belief, "God's wish" for Nepal's present situation, is an image of slow historical development which exists because of the prevalent illiteracy and ignorance. The geography (less resources because of less usable land, vast infertile mountains and land-locked boundaries) is another major factor constraining our development. Only since the 1950's, as a result of political changes, the Nepalese, who were completely illprepared for the 20th century, opened their eyes. Despite these constraints and from such a late start, Nepalese are still trying to catch up with a rapidly changing world. One cannot expect miracles within 40-50 years of time period for a nation to change. We should realize that it is a slow process, and convince our youngsters to be patience and do the best to overcome such problems, instead of misinterpreting and blaming the culture.

Culture is the expression of man's responses to the physical and human environment. We should be aware of the fact that eastern culture is well known and respected even in western societies. The concept of Hindu and Buddhist philosophy, that individual life is a delusion, and the essential unity of impersonal soul is the basis of our culture rather than the characteristic of Western culture which permeates the cult of INDIVIDUALISM.

Creative ideas cannot be developed without letting individuals express their independent thoughts at their free will. Our authoritarian society prevents the individuals' creative ideas to flourish fully. In this respect, there seems a need to change some aspects of traditional culture to meet the changing world. However, a careful analysis of such ideas must be performed before its reinforcement. A renowned philosopher Rene' Dubos says, "In western societies, because of high technological development, the interrelationship with other human beings and rest of the creation are constantly diminishing in significance. The competitive society, in which economic reward is considered the only measure of value, seem to destroy the ancient culture". He is deeply concerned, and expresses the alarm against the dehumanizing effects of modern technology and western societies' adaptation to the individualism.

Living in this society, the thing I dread the most is the unlimited freedom of the adolescents. Being a mother, I am more concerned about the young generation living in this society and their well being. In our culture, the experienced adults object to some of their freedom, realizing their limited ability for self control, which is saving them from destroying their future in certain aspects. Due to our tradition and culture we have been able to maintain our family structure, which is the strength of our society. Being here in USA, I have seen decaying families and confused young ones destroying their precious future. The scientific revolution in the sixties made western society believe that they can control nature. Because of the invention of contraceptives, the sexual freedom replaced the ancient religious belief and cultural values.

At present, western societies are facing serious social and health related problems because of such freedom. Young individuals care more for their personal interest and pleasure rather than for their families and societies' well being. The epidemic of teenage (unwed) pregnancy is leading to other complicated issues such as abortion, suicide, mental depression and high school drop outs. Despite the Government's attention on drug addiction, it still remains one of the major adolescent health problems. A large number of youngsters become victim of acquaintance or date rape. Last but not least concerned issues in many promiscuous societies are the sexually transmitted diseases (STDS). Along with other STDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has frightened western societies as no other diseases ever had in the last twenty years.

Should we not agree that we are saved from such problems because of our tradition, religious belief and cultural background? Monogamy and virginity before marriage do not only control the diseases but also the other social problems. If we do not relay such good aspects of our culture to our children we will be facing the same problems in the near future. One should realize that the microorganisms have not been conquered by human beings, yet. Science and technology are not the only answer. Money is not the only power.

We adults have challenging responsibilities to guide our young ones not only those who are living in the western world but also those who are back home and are apt to follow the western culture. In most underdeveloped countries, young people try to make a model of western society, thinking everything they do is right. When drug addiction used to be an epidemic here in western societies in the seventies, it has become prevalent among our youngsters in Nepal in the eighties. Such patterns must be stopped before it is too late. We should be able to identify good things about other cultures, such as, their efficiency in education dedication, and concentration for the progress of individual, community and nation and encourage our youngsters to learn and

implement such behaviors. At the same time, we should also be able to understand our culture and its positive aspects in order to reinforce such behaviors.

I am looking forward to upcoming ANMA conference. It would be worthwhile to organize a round table (educative) discussion session about our culture or other relevant topics on this valuable occasion. Let interested and educated people exchange or express their ideas instead of limiting our activities to official work (election), cultural show and Nepalese dinner. Nepalese culture is much more than just the songs, dances and food. As previous writers expressed in their view that to be friendly and care for others are the qualities that all Nepalese are born with, we must make clear to our younger generation about the various aspects, uniqueness and importance of our culture instead of misleading them by saying "I do not know my culture" unless we completely accept western culture and are hesitant to show our identity by taking the wrong conception of our culture.

Srijana Bajracharya, Ph.D.
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL

NEWS FROM NEPAL

Reconstitution of the Council Of Ministers

The Council of Ministers was recently reconstituted under the Prime Ministership of Marich Man Singh Shrestha. The new Council consisted of 14 Ministers, 6 Ministers of State, and 13 Assistant Ministers. The Ministers and Ministers of State are as follows:

Ministers: Marichman Singh Shrestha (Prime Minister, Royal Palace Affairs and Defense); Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya (Foreign Affairs); Dil Bahadur Shrestha (Supply); Hari Bahadur Basnet (Communications); Padma Sundar Lawati (Land Reform and Management); Pashupati Shumshere J.B. Rana (Panchayats and Local Development); Balaram Gharti Magar (Industry); Dr. Yadav Prasad Pant (Water Resources); Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani (Housing and Physical Planning); Parashu Narayan Chaudhari (Commerce, Labor and Social Welfare); Mrs. Sushila Thapa (Health); Keshar Bahadur Bista (Education and Culture); Bharat Bahadur Pradhan (Finance); and Dr. Mohammad Mohsin (Tourism)

Ministers of State: Krishna Charan Shrestha (Agriculture); Dipak Bohra (Works and Transport); Badri Prasad Mandal (Law and Justice); Gagan Jung Bahadur Singh (Forests); Buddhi Man Tamang (General Administration); and Niranjan Thapa (Home).

Four Ministers of the previous Council of Ministers (Hari Narayan Rajauria, Hem Bahadur malla, Vijaya Prakash Thebe, and Gunjeshwari Prasad Singh) and two Ministers of State (Prakash Bahadur Singh and Ramesh Nath Pandey) found no place in the new set up. (Gorkhapatra, March 10)

In a related development, Miss Chanda Shah, who had been appointed Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning on March 9, resigned on March 16. In a statement later issued listing the reasons for her resignation, Miss Shah accused the Prime Minister of engaging in "anti-people" activities which, she said, "if left unchecked, will ruin the country." "I do not want to be morally responsible for such activities, so I have decided to resign from the Council of Ministers". (Samiksha, March 18)

Stampede at Dasharath Stadium

Seventy people, including two policemen, were killed in a stampede when spectators watching a football game at the Dasarath Stadium in Kathmandu tried

to get out all at once from the southern gate to seek shelter from a hailstorm at around 3:50 P.M. on March 12. (Gorkhapatra, March 13) Local newspapers in Kathmandu reported that the stampede at the stadium occurred because only one gate of the stadium was open and the police "lathi-charged" the spectators as they rushed en masse to get out through that gate to escape the thunderstorm. The Associated Press reported: Ice pellets the size of gum balls rained down on the 30,000 fans watching a match between Nepalese and Bangladeshi teams at the National Stadium. Eyewitnesses said screaming spectators rushed to the stadium's eight exits but found only one open. Police and hospital sources in the city confirmed that more than 70 people, including two police officers, were trampled to death or had suffocated. Government television reported that 73 people were killed, and witnesses said 20 bodies left at the stadium were later retrieved by relatives. More than 100 others were injured in the crush. Hospital sources said 12 people were in serious condition. Crowd angered by the authorities' failure to unlock the gates attacked three official cars inside the stadium grounds with rocks, smashing windows and windshields, witnesses said. It was the worst sports-related disaster on record for Nepal.

In other news

-- On a visit to Nepal in March, Lord Glenarthur announced that the British Government had decided to close the British Gurkha Recruitment Center at Dharan. He added, "This decision will not affect the level of Gurkha recruitment in the British Army, which is 250 a year at present."

-- A five day World Hindu Conference began in Kathmandu on March 24 under the auspices of the World Hindu Organization headed by ex-Prime Minister Nagendra Prasad Rijal. The Conference was attended by delegates and religious leaders from 25 countries.

-- Mrs. Bindeswari Shaha was appointed Royal Nepali Ambassador to India. She is the first Nepali woman to receive an ambassadorial appointment.

Fr. James J. Donnelly of St. Xavier's Godavari School wrote one of our members recently to report the passing of the foundress and first mother superior of St. Mary's School in Kathmandu. Mother M. Winfred, IBMV, a native of Germany, worked in the school for Nepalese girls for over 35 years. She died December 23. He noted that Fr. Thomas M. Downing, who died in 1987, had also dedicated more than 30 years in Nepal. Fr. Thomas Downing worked at St. Xavier's School in Godavari. He was a native of the U.S.

Congratulations to Raja and Sunita Shrestha of Portland, Oregon on their new addition to the family -- a baby girl!!

The Viewpoints

"The Viewpoints" is the official newsletter of The Association of the Nepalese in Midwest America. It is published 4-6 times per year. The Editorial Committee consists of:

Prahlad D. Pant, Editor
5876 Bluespruce Lane, Cincinnati, Ohio 45224
Telephone: 513-681-2337

Indira Koirala, Associate Editor
35133 Glengary Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48018
Telephone: 313-553-9187

Ram Bishyal, President, ANMA (ex officio)
1005 S. Elmwood, Oak Park, Illinois 60304
Telephone: 312-383-7761

Some Facts About ANMA and "The Viewpoints"

- The ANMA membership is not limited to residents of the Midwest . Any person living in the U.S. and Canada is eligible, and encouraged, to join ANMA.
- ANMA maintains a directory of Nepalese in the U.S. and Canada. If you are a member of ANMA, an updated copy of the Directory is yours for the asking. The Directory will also be available for free pick up during the ANMA Annual Meeting in Carbondale.
- "The Viewpoints" is widely distributed among the Nepalese community. Currently, approximately 70% of our distribution consists of complimentary copies. We have been doing it as a service to the Nepalese community. Our resources are, however, limited. Please help us in our task by joining ANMA.
- Members who have paid their dues receive "The Viewpoints" without any interruption. Please report any problem to the Editor, Associate Editor, or President of ANMA.
- We can not send you complimentary copies on a regular basis if you are not a member of ANMA. We strongly encourage you to join ANMA and ensure your copies of "The Viewpoints".
- "The Viewpoints" needs news contributors from all over the U.S. and Canada. If you have any news or articles that you would like to share with fellow Nepalese, please send it to the Editor.
- We would particularly like to have news contributors from non-midwestern cities. We invite presidents and secretaries of all Nepalese associations to send us news about their associations, announcements about their activities, etc etc for publication in "The Viewpoints".
- "The Viewpoints" accepts advertisements. The advertisement rates are: full page, \$100; half page, \$50; quarter page, \$25. No advertisements will be published in the front page.
- If you have any questions or comments, please contact Editor Prahlad D. Pant or any member of the Editorial Committee.

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2045

FIRST CLASS MAIL