



INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

तिज ..	1
Journey ...	2
Golfing ..	3
Lumbini ...	3
Mario ..	3
My Auto ..	3
Potlitical ...	4
Annual Benefit..	4
Help ..	4

NEWSLETTER TEAM :

Ankur Sharma
Bishnu Phuyal
Prabhakant Das
Sagar Regmi
Sangita Subedi
Piush Dahal
Niraj Pant

For birthday
announcements, articles,
success stories,
quotations, poems, write
to us at
peopleofnepal@gmail.com

Come, Share and
Advertise With Us

Email:
peopleofnepal@gmail.com
Please share your stories,
pictures, and be an
active
contributor.

Welcome to Chicago Chautari Times— 30th Edition



Somebody said to me one day that life is some kind of waste, no understandable purpose, nothing that we can be satisfied in eternal sense. It seems to have no meaning. We are born, we live and we die, just like many other animals, except that we deal slightly differently than most animals. As nothing seems to matter after all, it is not unlikely to have such feeling sometime. Actually if we look individually, in complete isolation with everything else, and do not care anything, we may sense meaninglessness of life.

But that is not what we are, if we are careful to care or contemplate for what we do and what other does. Each life, whether our own or any other animal or any living being, the dependability and hence the necessary connections in physical, mental, philosophical, transcendental and

perhaps many other forms and facts exists with each and everything else. We are simply incapable to feel or express all those with our senses or express in words or through our actions. For such a vast thing that exists within our own body and our self, it is challenging and overwhelmingly impossible to make ourselves understand all. Then how can we say it could be meaningless?

Similarly, if we think life and hence nothing else has any meaning and begin acting careless and do whatever, and everyone follows, there will be chaos, and there will be devastation. Is that the purpose or meaningful thing?

We can probably find meaning if we agree how common each of us are in many ways, how much of our actions and activities affect other.

Perhaps we need to meet more people, we need to share our feelings and values and our earnings for our own sake, to our family. Perhaps we need to offer more of our time and our experience to our own children and to our community, and if we continue to do many other things that we can do with powers within us each and every day, we may understand the important meaning behind our life, we certainly may know its eternal meaning.

- Editor's Pick

तिजको रहर आयो बरिलै



हिन्दु महिलाहरूको सबैभन्दा ठूलो चाड तिजको दिनमा मलाई मेरो बालापनको याद आयो । तीजको दिन बिहान सबेरै हजुरमुमाले म र मेरो बहिनीलाई टिका लगाईदिबक्सिन्थ्यो, थरि थरि रंगका चुरा लगाईदिबक्सिन्थ्यो अनि दक्षिणा दिा बक्सिन्थ्यो । त्यसपछि हजुरबुवा, मामु, सानो हजुरमुमा बाफरे, म र मेरी बहिनीलाई के चाहियो र, हातभरि चुरा अनि टन्न पैसा । त्यसपछि दुबैजना तल बरन्डामा बसेर चुरा छुन्-छुन् गर्दै, दङ्ग पदै तिजको दिन शुरु हुन्थ्यो । तिज के हो हामीलाई थाहा थिएन, तर हाम्रोलागि तिज चुरा लगाउने र पैसा पाउने दिन चाहि जरुर थियो । दिउंसो छिन छिनमा आःमाईहरूको टोली आउंथे, विभिन्न भाषा हालेर गित गाउंदै, नाचदै अनि ठाउं-ठाउंमा थकाई बिसाउंदै । हाम्रो घर आंगनमा पनि उनीहरू एकैछिन शितलमा सास फरेर, गित गाउंथे, नाचथे अनि आफ्नो बाटो लाग्थे । आज यहां शिकागोमा तीज मनाउदा ती कुराहरूको एकदमै सम्झना आउदछ । परदेशमा सबै साथिहरू मिलेर दर खाने, राधेश्याम मन्दिरमा सबै रातो पहलो भएर संगै पूजा गर्ने परम्परा नै बनिसकेकोछ । परार सालको तिज र अहिलेमा धेरै साथिहरू छुटिसके, परदेशको बिडम्बना । तर अहिले यहा साथिहरू संग मिलेर मनाएको तिजले आफन्तहरू संग मनाएको तिजको साटो फेदै छ ।

तीजको लहर आयो बरि लै ॥ — संगिता सुबेदी



Journey to the United States - By Pooja Acharya

In May of 2010, my family received a letter from the US Department of State that we had won a US Green Card. However, that letter was not final, so after responding to the letter with some necessary paperwork, we continued with our lives as usual. My sister and I went to our schools and my parents did their jobs. Then after a few months, we received another letter from the State Department telling us to go to the US Embassy in Kathmandu for an interview.



So we went for the interview at the Embassy. After some conversation with my parents, we were told by the official that we had received the visa to immigrate to the United States and that we had six months to enter the country. As I heard that, I got excited and sad at the same time. I was excited because I got a visa to go to a country where everyone seemed to want to go. Then I was sad because I had to leave my motherland where I was born and grew up and had to be away from my beloved relatives and friends with whom I had spent so many years.

Starting that day, our lives changed. We began the preparation for our immigration to the United States. My mom and dad ended their jobs. Although I had my uncle and aunt in America, I did not know much about the country. So I started going to the American Library inside the US Embassy to learn about American history and geography. My parents decided that we would leave for the US as soon as my sister would finish her school year in April 2011.

As the day of departure was getting closer, I was getting more and more anxious. As I went to see my close friends and relatives, I felt an overwhelming sadness because each friend and relative I saw reminded me of what I was going to miss in America.

Then the day finally came. Our flight was in the afternoon and we had spent a good part of the previous night packing. We got up early and called some relatives to say goodbye and to seek their blessings. I cried a lot on the phone on that day. Almost everyone on other end of the phone cried, too and asked that I not forget them. My aunt Indira consoled me and said "*chori* (daughter), you should be happy. You will have better opportunities to study and to make a better future for yourself." But I didn't feel ready to leave Nepal.

Both of my grandfathers (mom's dad and dad's dad) came to Kathmandu to see us off. As it was time to leave, they put *tika* on our foreheads and gave their blessings. My aunt Kabita and uncle Koirala also gave my little sister Dallu and I their blessings. My cousins Samip and Safal looked very sad to see us go. There was more crying. Everyone's eyes were swelled.

About 13 of our close relatives joined us to the airport. I know they were excited for us that we were going to the land of opportunities, but for now everyone was sad that that land was oceans away. As we entered the departure gate at Tribhuvan International Airport, everyone waved and wished us a nice journey.

We boarded the Korean Air flight which would take us from Kathmandu to Seoul. As the plane took off, I looked out the window one final time. My country looked amazingly beautiful. As the plane flew higher over the mountains, I felt further and further away from Nepal. I didn't know when I would return. I could not stop my tears.

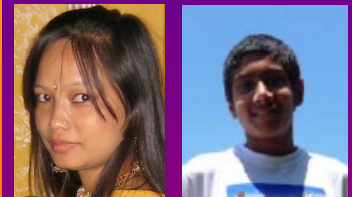
Just like that, I left my country for the first time. I looked around the airplane. Everyone looked like a stranger. Even though the flight attendants were very friendly and polite, everything already seemed foreign to me. The food in the plane was all new to me and I didn't particularly like it. I already missed my food. We flew over many countries and finally landed in Seoul after six hours. The city of Seoul was beautiful and the Korean people were nice and friendly. - **Contd on Pg3**

Best Wishes to our Birthday Stars

Sept 4th
Aruna Gyawali & Robin Jamkatel



Sept 6th
Gita Grover & Niraj Pant



Sept 9th
Aditi Khanal



Sept 18th
Durgha Seerla
Sept 15th
Komal Dutta



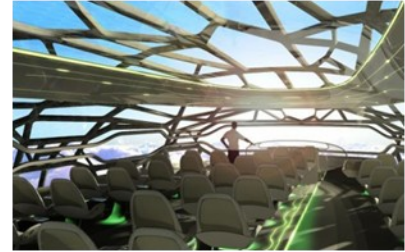
Sept 19th





Golfing on Airplanes ??? - Niraj Pant

Wouldn't it be great to golf on planes rather than having to sit in confined seats for 2+ hours? The answer is yes and no. Airbus recently released designs at the Farnborough International Airshow for a futuristic plane that was supposedly "the future of commercial flying". The only downside to this plane is that this is only a concept plane for the year 2050. All sadness aside, the plane will be split into a "vitalizing" zone, a "smart tech" zone, and an "interaction" zone. The central interaction area can transform from a golfing range to a night club. The "vitalizing" zone involves acupuncture treatment, yoga, etc. The final zone, the "smart tech" zone, has computers and spots for business meetings. Airbus plans to separate economy and business class, while passengers will have to pay for basic to luxury services.



Journey to the US - Continued

Our next flight was only after 10 hours, so we spent that night at a hotel inside the Incheon International Airport in Seoul. Next morning, we got up, had some breakfast (missed my food again) and headed to the Airport check-in. A couple of hours later, we boarded a large airplane headed to Chicago, USA. As the airplane took off, I started thinking what my life would be like in America. I asked myself, "Would I be able to make new friends? Would I be able to do well in studies? What if I couldn't? I fell asleep as I dwelled in my thoughts. When I woke up, we were flying high up over the Pacific Ocean. The white clouds looked bright and pretty like cotton way below, and the ocean looked blue and infinite.

After 12 hours of non-stop flight, we landed at the O'Hare International Airport in Chicago. The airport looked very large and impressive. As we exited the International Arrival gate, my uncle Deepak, aunt Nila and my cousin Aditi were waiting for us outside. After exchanging greetings, we lined up to take some photos.

As we drove off the airport in my uncle's car, I remembered what aunt Indira had said. That I was in the land of better opportunities. *Pooja is a junior at Adlai Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Illinois. She can be reached at: acharya.pooja13@gmail.com*



Lumbini - Robin Jamkatel

On my recent trip to Nepal I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to visit Lumbini, birthplace of Lord Buddha. Going to Lumbini and touring the shrine and the lord's birthplace was a great memory that I will cherish for the rest of my life. Being a Nepali and knowing the fact that a religion many people from all different walks of life follow has a inner root that all begins at Lumbini, Nepal. This itself is a pride one can be happy about.

Lumbini is the birthplace of Lord Buddha; the sacred area surrounding the facility is beautiful with well-decorated gardens, water fountains, and above all a place where one can find inner peace. I was able to see people from different religions and different countries coming together and pay their respects to lord Buddha. Now whenever people in the USA, be it my school or not; talk about Buddha or Buddhism, I can lift my head up in pride and tell them that I am from the same country that the root of Buddhism began. For those who have been there have to

think they are fortunate because there are millions of true Buddhism followers that have never had the opportunity to visit.

It is annoying how people believe that the birthplace of Lord Buddha is in India; I am angered by this notion. This is all propaganda for what? I cannot understand. Why would they lie when facts and history contradicts their theory, they should learn from their mistakes and live with the truth, as truth will always prevail.



Mario US Donkey Kong - Alok Das

Mario US Donkey Kong is my favorite game. If you have a PS, you should try it too. I liked the game so much I finished all of the levels. My favorite level is level 7. You should try it.



My Autobiography

My name is Kashish Bastola. I was born on May 24 2004 in Alabama. The people in my family are Nisha, my mom, Mukesh, my dad, Kabya my sister and me. My family is very special to me because they help me get ready for school. When I was a baby, I always banged on pots and pans. Now, I am 7 yrs old. I live in Skokie. My favorite place to go in my community is School because we learn and write and it is so fun. My favorite thing to do at home is play games with my sister because me and my sister like playing games and it is fun. I am a second grader at Madison School and I like to learn about non fiction books because they teach us lot of good information. When I grow up, I want to be a president because I want to live in the white house. I think I am special because I wrote a perfectly done autobiography.

Best Wishes to our Birthday Stars

Submit your birthday Information with the pictures by via email to peopleofnepal@gmail.com by 20th of the month, to be included in our next edition.

Formation of a Chicago Nepali Political Awareness Committee

The Nepali immigrant population in the larger metropolitan Chicago has increased steadily, reaching a currently estimated 10,000. Some have adopted US citizenship and there even some voters born here. To date, these voters have been left on their own to pick their preferred candidates in the various elections they participated in. There has been very little political organizing to register and to vote and to demonstrate the strength of our support to candidates. **Therefore our votes have had no tangible meaning thus far.** Considering the voter population and its scattered nature, our votes would probably have had limited impact.

With growth in numbers however, it is time for us to start being politically aware and to better know our required duties as well as the rights and privileges offered by the various systems in this country. It is very important to have either some influential and knowledgeable politicians on our side or have some elected from within our own community.

As the community grows, it will have many social needs and encounter different problems. Resources from the community and support from government entities can help address those problems. Government support mechanisms support can best be understood and made available with help from advocate politician. We have few such champions nor have we been able to leverage our voting power and make a political impact. The candidacy of Darshan Rauniyar for US congress should be viewed in the light of these factors. His candidacy and potential victory could be very useful to us because he is a capable, qualified candidate and we can be justifiably proud to help elect the first Nepali-American to the US congress. His candidacy should be viewed as our first challenge and responsibility. Furthermore, his candidacy should serve as an encouragement and opportunity to begin community-wide efforts to participate in the political process; voter registrations; form common platforms to support appropriate candidate and bring awareness to the community.

These considerations led a number of us in Chicago to contact each other and discuss among ourselves about forming a team to support Darshan Rauniyar which would coordinate community efforts on his behalf. The team consisted of:

Bishnu Phuyal, Ramakant Kharel, Khem Pathak, Ankur Sharma, Kiran Byanjankar, Anil Rimal, Sharda Thapa, Subarna Pradhan and Suraj Ghimire.

They convened at Mt. Everest Restaurant on August 24, 2011 and proposed September 25 for a community gathering at an appropriate location to meet, greet and personally offer our support to Darshan Rauniyar. This group could transition into a political awareness group to communicate with and advise the community on how to be politically engaged and to endorse and support local candidates.

An Annual Benefit Dinner - By Nepali American Society (NAS)

Nepalese American Society (NAS) organized an annual benefit dinner and award ceremony on July 23, 2011 at Saint Augustine College, Chicago. It was the first ever Nepalese community made this type of event and awarded to three different community based organizations working with Nepalese Immigrants and refugees. NAS endeavor to demonstrate our Nepali culture and values by organizing this event and giving Nepali hand made wooden crafts for awards.

Awarded Organizations were: Living Water Community Church, South Asian Friendship Center, and Coalition of Asian, African, Arab, European, and Latino Immigrants of Illinois (CAAALII)

Awards were received by Mark Angel :Executive Director of South Asian Friendship Center, Lhakpa Tshiring :Interim Executive Director of CAAALII and Amos Shakya: Executive Volunteer of Living Water Community Church

South Asian Friendship Center has been closely working with Nepalese Immigrants since last 7 years, CAAALII has been actively helping the Nepalese community since last 5 years and Living Water Community Church has been providing space and resources to the NAS since last three years. There was a large number of representations from various communities and organizations. The event was made more attractive and lively by the Nepalese cultural programs and presentations about Nepal and Nepalese culture. All guests were welcomed by Shyam Shrestha and Vote of thanks was given by Govind Shrestha.

HELP Chandra Bahadur Rana



Mr Chandra Bahadur Rana has been living here in Chicago for three years. He is well known personality in our community as well. As he is here, he is living with us, supporting and participating in our organization events and activities always. He has been diagnosed a severe kidney failure from John Stroger Cook County Hospital, Chicago. We have decided to help his kidney transplant treatment as soon as possible and we have started collecting donations for him through various organizations. Please visit www.cnfsusa.org to read Mr Chandra Bahadur Rana's own appeal to all of us here in USA and Elsewhere.

Your donation would be the life donation for Chandra Bahadur Rana. Please visit CNFS Website www.cnfsusa.org for donation to help his kidney transplant treatment.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Tek Bahadur KC "Dilu" - 773 - 319 2814 or

Bishnu Phuyal - 773 469 0684

