



## Nepali Association of Oregon Progress Report 2009-2011

Since the election of a new executive committee for the two year term of 2009-11, following activities have been accomplished:

### **Membership:**

In 2009-2011, we have collected \$2,195 from general membership since the New Year event in 2009. Memberships are generally renewed or enrolled at the regular NAO events: New Year and Dasain. A list of up-to-date membership is regularly posted on the NAO website under Current Membership.

### **Fund raising for the NAO Education Fund.**

We have collected a sum of \$5,970 from the donations received from 102 individuals within Nepali community as well as some from out-of-state Nepali friends.

The NAO Education Fund was established in early 2009. NAO started the fund with \$500, which was matched by a local philanthropist Kinoko Thompson's contribution of \$400. In April 2009, NAO Executive committee unanimously decided to contribute 25 percent of the net profit made in every NAO program to this fund. As a result, NAO contributed a sum of \$1,416 from various events in 2009-2010.

### A List of all contributors to the 2009 Scholarship Fund:

Individual contributions totally \$5,503 was collected from all individuals listed above in 2009.

Amit Aryal & Shristy Bhandary  
Amod & Shova B. Chhetri  
Archana & Deepak Shrestha, Wisconsin  
Bandana & Mahesh Shrestha, Wisconsin  
Basanta & Tara Karki  
Bharat & Mira Banskota  
Bibek & Dr. Salona Shrestha  
Bikas & Sabina Raghubansh  
Bikky & Kaori Shrestha, Alaska  
Bikram & Rojita Raghubansh  
Bikram & Mianne Vaidya

Bimal & Roopa Pathak  
Binaya Shrestha, Massachusetts  
David & Lisiya Singh  
Dhurba & Sujan Munakarmi  
Dibesh & Anupama Shrestha  
Dillu & Sunita Thapa  
Drs. Anuj Regmi & Sunita Paudyal  
DurgaB & Basudha Shrestha  
Ekaman & Anjali Bajracharya  
Gretchen & Achut Baskota  
Jagat & Rajanee Shakya  
Kanhaiya & Narbada Vaidya  
Kinoko Thampson  
Kusha & Anju Bhattarai  
Nancy & David Doss  
Narayan & Mery Gurung  
Nischita Shrestha & Jack Stephenson, California  
Prachin Shrestha  
Pradip & Binita Baniya  
Praveen & Deepa Chalise  
Poorna & Subhadra Ranjitkar  
Raj & Lalita Budathoki  
Raja & Sunita Shrestha  
Rajan Dhaubhadel & Smriti Shrestha  
Raju & Minu Mali  
Ramesh & Pabi Bhandari  
Sachin & Kimberly Thapa  
Sachindra & Rama Bajarcharya  
Samdup Khangkar Lama  
Sanjeev & Rejina Pradhan  
Sarju & Upasana Rajbhandari  
Satish & Saroj Upadhyay  
Sikchya Tandukar  
Srijana & Ayodhaya Batajoo, Wisconsin  
Subas & Sachita Shrestha  
Subash C. & Indira Poudyal  
Suraj & Aruna Aryal  
Sushil Aryal & Shovana Dixit  
Suva Shakya  
Ujwal & Preeti Shrestha  
Uma & Kush Shrestha

Additional \$150 was contributed by Nike for two contributions made by Subas Shrestha and Prachin Shrestha.

In 2010-11, additional, \$1,072 was collected from following individuals:

Bharat & Mera Baskota  
Binaya Shrestha  
David & Lisiya Singh  
Narayan & Mary Gurung  
Praveen & Deepa Chalise  
Purna & Subhandra Ranjitkar  
Ramesh & Pabi Bhandari  
Sunil & Srijana Tamrakar  
Uma & Kush Shrestha  
Birat & Nisha Dhungel (in 2011)

Shuddhodan Ranjit donated \$180, raised in the memorial fund in honor of his mother, Laxmi Devi Ranjit, who suddenly passed away in Portland while she was visiting her son and his family in June, 2010.

We are sincerely grateful to all community members who generously donated to the Scholarship Fund. Some have donated two years in a row. NAO has already sent out the thank-you letters as well as the donation receipt to donors.

**The NAO Scholarship Program**, established in 2008, will give financial award to deserving graduating seniors of high school from the Nepali community. The program will award a \$500 to one successful candidate annually. The application process and selection details are on the NAO website.

**NAO Fund Raising: Momo Bhela: 2010 & 2011**

The NAO organized two Momo events (1<sup>st</sup> on February 27, 2010 and 2<sup>nd</sup> on February 26, 2011) successfully at SleighBell, Sherwood, Oregon. The fundraising event collected a net of \$917 for the NAO Scholarship Fund in 2009. The second Momo event drew 116 guests and collected a net of \$1429 for the NAO education fund.

Many community members, along with the executive committee members, volunteered to make the momo event a grand success. Community members contributed supplies, wines, hard drinks, their valuable time and labor. NAO salutes everyone who came forward to help us organize the event successfully.

**Namaste America**

Namaste America, a cultural program of Nepali music and dances from a group of artists from Nepal, was attended by 210 community members including Bhutani community in Portland. The cultural program generated a sum of \$3,975. A total profit of \$3,097 was made, of which \$2,012 (65%) of the profit was given to the artists and the remaining \$1,085 (35%) to NAO.

## **Community Outreach Programs**

### **2010 Outstanding Community Volunteers Recognition**

At the Dasain 2010 event, NAO recognized community member, Sachin Thapa for his outstanding voluntary contributions made to NAO activities.

### **Open House at Nritya Mandal Mahavihara**

On January 31, 2010, at the initiative of community member Satish Shrestha and Prajwol Bajracharya an open house was organized to welcome community members to the Mahavihara. Program included a brief introduction of the Mahavihara, spiritual and cultural aspects of its program, and a walk through the temple. The Nritya Mandal Mahavihar was opened for public in November 2009.

### **12 Stones Film show**

The 12 Stones is an inspiring short film detailing the lives of women in Nepal and the revolutionary changes brought about by a simple act of kindness. This film was hosted by Heifer Int'l local chapter, on April 8, 2010 in Portland. NAO helped promote the event in the local Nepali community.

### **Contribution to the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund**

NAO executive committee donated a \$251 to the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund organized by Baltimore Association of Nepalese in America BANA on behalf of Association of Nepalis in Americas (ANA).

### **NW Jamghat Picnic**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Northwest Jamghat Picnic was organized by NAO on Labor Day weekend September 4, 2010 at the Barton City Park, Boring, Oregon. A total of 250 plus participants including about 100 guests from Nepal Seattle Society (NSS) and Nepal Cultural Society of British Columbia (NCSBC) were at the picnic. The NSS President, SriRam Dahal and NCSBC President Ratan Rai were present at the picnic.

### **NAO in ANA Board of Directors**

NAO executive Committee has accepted to join the ANA Board of Directors. The formal invitation was extended by the ANA president Simon Dhungana.

### **Interaction with NRN VP, Mukesh Singh from Ohio**

On May 1<sup>st</sup> 2010, NAO organized a get together to welcome and discuss issues of Nepali diaspora in USA with the senior vice present of NRN National Coordination Council of USA, Mukesh Singh at Tualatin Public Library.

### **Interaction with AC Lama from Seattle**

AC Sherpa, a young mountain climber from Seattle, Washington who climbed all major peaks in seven continents in one year, came to Portland to share his experience about mountain climbing and works of his foundation in Solu-khumbu, Nepal. AC Sherpa will

be back again this summer to attend the Nepal Day on July 16, 2011, at Portland. The program was organized at Tualatin public Library.

### **Nepal Day –July 16, 2011**

In honor of tourism year 2011 in Nepal, NAO has decided to celebrate July 16 as the Nepal Day, first ever event in Portland. The event is geared to introduce Nepal and various facets of Nepali culture and customs to local Americans. Nepali Ambassador Shankar P. Sharma has accepted the invitation to attend the event.

A steering committee has been formed to start the planning and resource management for the Nepal Day event. The committee consists of the following members: Anupama Shrestha, Bimal Pathak, Bikram Vaidya, Narayan Gurung, and Raja Shrestha. NAO President and General Secretary will be ex-officio members of the committee.

### **Digital Photography Seminar –A fundraiser program**

In support of orphan children and their education in rural Nepal, Maggie Doyne, 23, has started the school project at Kopila Village in Surkhet, Nepal. She began working on the project when she was 18 while traveling to the village with her own money that she saved from babysitting.

To support her cause, Dibesh Shrestha organized an Introduction to Digital Photography Seminar on March 27, 2011. About 17 people attended the seminar and raised a total of \$1155. Intel will donate additional \$240 to the cause on behalf of Dibesh Shrestha.

All the proceeds from this event and the fifty percent of profit made (\$720) at the Momo event (\$1975) will be donated to Blinknow foundation supporting the works of Maggie Doyne in Nepal.

As a result of Dibesh's initiative, additional \$620 will be directly donated to the foundation.

### **Environmental Sanu Kazi Shrestha's Presentation**

Sanu Kazi Shrestha a Solar energy lobbyist and an award winning environmentalist from Kathmandu, Nepal, gave a presentation on sustainable alternative energies in the context of Nepal and many other developing countries to a group of Nepali as well as American friends at the Nritya Mandal Mahavihara, Portland.

Sanu Kazi Shrestha also showed a demonstration of making a fuel briquette from scrap papers. Suva Shakya and Prjwal Vajracharya deserve our special thanks for coordinating the event.

### **Regular Activities:**

NAO representatives attended the **NW Jamghat picnic** organized by Nepalese Seattle Society in Seattle. As a part of the Jamghat, NAO also participated in the NW Nepali Friendship Volley Ball team competition. Many members from Oregon attended the Jamghat, including NAO VP Sanjeev Pradhan and IPP Dillu Thapa.

### **After-Thanksgiving Household Goods Give Away Program: 2009 & 2010**

NAO organized successful event of giving household goods away to the Bhutani refugees from Nepal in November, 2009 and 2010. More than 20 families benefitted from the program. Additional household goods were also collected and distributed to many new families in December 2010. Similar program was also organized in November 2009.

NAO also organized 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> **Himalayan Table Tennis Championship** Tournaments in June 2009 at Portland state University and in June 2010 at the Tualatin Hills Athletic Center. The table tennis events were participated by many of our community members as well as Tibetans and American friends.

Besides, NAO continue to organize annual programs **New Year** celebration 2067, in April 2010; **Dasain** celebration in October 2009 & 2010; and **Summer Potluck Picnic** in July 2009. The highlight of 2010 Dasain event was *sel roti* prepared by volunteers form our community. More and more community members are attending these events. NAO is committed to organize future events in more interesting and engaging manner.

### **Orientation for the Class of 2010 & 2011**

A first ever college-bound High School seniors from Nepali community was brought together for the inaugural orientation event. Many HS seniors attended 2 hours event at the Tigard Public Library. Several speakers made presentations to the various aspects of college life and engaged seniors in the question-answer sessions.

Similar orientation program was also organized in November 2010 at Tualatin Public Library to graduating high school seniors in 2011 from Nepali community.

### **First NAO Scholarship Award**

The 2010 high school senior Manisha Shrestha from West Salem High School won the NAO scholarship award of \$500. It was presented to her at the Dasain event on October 30, 2010.

### **NAO Scholarship Selection Task-Force Committee**

NAO would like to thank community members who volunteered to the candidate selection task-force committee: Jagat Shakya, Sushil Aryal and Subhash Poudyal – for the grading of application materials. NAO would also like to acknowledge the volunteer assistance received from Fadel Bader, faculty member of the Portland Community College, who graded essays submitted by the applicant for the NAO scholarship award program.

### **NAO introduce \$500 Scholarship to 3 students in Nepal**

NAO executive committee at its December 2010 meeting unanimously decided to extend the \$500 annual scholarship program to help three students in Nepal. NAO will work with Aama Nepal to implement the program starting in April 2011.

A four member task force committee of Bharat Banskota, Sanjeev Pradhan, Jagat Shakya & Sarju Rajbhandari was formed to recommend the selection criteria and operation modality with Aama Nepal.

### **Constitution Amendment**

On April 17, 2010, several provisions of NAO Constitution were amended to make it more responsive to current community situation and encourage more community participation in the executive committee.

#### Amendments:

General members and life members shall be eligible to file for various positions of the Executive committee of the organization, if he/she remains general member or life member in a good standing for at least a year.

A MEMBERSHIP section has been moved from By-Laws to the main body of constitution so that it will be binding.

Other notable changes include:

- Clarifying previously stated provisions in the current constitution,
- Defining roles of Executive committee, Advisory Committee
- Establishing quorum requirements for proposals and meetings, and

### **Ganga Sharma New NAO General Secretary**

NAO general secretary, Srisiti Bhattarai, resigned from her post due to her wedding and the subsequent move to New York in July 2010.

NAO executive committee, appointed executive member Ganga Sharma to fill the role of General Secretary for the remainder of the 2009-2011 term.

### **Nepali Class:**

In April 2010, several parents from the community came together to offer classes on Nepali language for children. Nepali classes are held on Sundays from 2-4 and about 20 children are participating in the program. The goal of this program is to promote the use of Nepali language among children and help them learn to read and write in Nepali.

**NAO Financial Summary Report: 2009-2011** Covering the period from May 17, 2009 through April 14, 2011 is presented below:

<b>NAO Activites Income/ Expenses 2009-2011</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
<b>Opening Blanace</b>	\$10,338.63	
Membership	\$2,195.00	
Himalayan Table Tennis Tournament	\$372.00	
Bank Interest, Transfer & Adjustments	\$1,840.04	
Dasain Celebration (2009, 2010)	\$6,054.00	
Momo Bhela (2010, 2011)	\$3,084.00	
New Year 2067 Celebration	\$3,305.50	
Namaste America	\$1,565.50	
NW Jamghat Picnic	\$420.47	
Photography Seminar Fundraiser	\$1,255.00	
Momo Bhela (2010, 2011)		\$728.13
Dasain Celebration (2009, 2010)		\$5,349.08
Himalayan Table Tennis Tournament (2009, 2010)		\$476.11
Nepali NY Event (BS 2067) 2010, includes 2009 outstanding expenses		\$2,978.44
Namaste America		\$420.44
Advance for 2011 NY event for Venue & Liability Insurance		\$937.00
Scholarship Awards (Oregon 2010 & Nepal 2011)		\$1,000.00
Haiti Earth Quack Relief Fund Contribution		\$251.00
Scholarship & OVSC Award Certificates		\$76.89
Community Outreach Activities		\$176.29
Summer Picnic 2009 & NW Jamghat 2010		\$1,053.78
Account Adjustments 2009, 2010, 2011		\$1,185.00
NAO Account Transfers		\$4,049.00
Cook Park Reservation for 2011 Picnic		\$223.00
Web hosting Service Renewal (Thamel.com)		\$211.80
BlinkNow Foundation Contribution		\$1,975.00
Miscellaneous Expenses 2009, 2010, 2011		\$162.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,430.14</b>	<b>\$21,253.26</b>
<b><u>NAO Account Balance as of:</u></b>	<b><u>5/17/2009</u></b>	<b><u>4/14/2011</u></b>
Checking Account	\$10,338.63	\$12,095.17
Scholarship Fund Account	\$880.09	\$10,445.81
Relief Fund Account	\$789.10	\$789.60
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>\$12,007.82</u></b>	<b><u>\$23,330.58</u></b>

\*Pending transactions of \$1,682 as of April 14, 2011 is reflected in this summary report.

NAO revenue is almost doubled in last two years. Membership (\$2,195), Fundraising events (\$3,501) and Donations to NAO Education Programs (\$6,906) – collectively contributed 59 percent of total NAO revenue (\$21,357).