

FEB 2024
NEWSLETTER

CHICAGO CHAUTARI
TIMES - 179th Edition

Happy Saraswati
Diwas ! Jai Santoshi
Mata ki Jai



Chicago Chautari Times

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FEB 2024 NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to Chicago Chautari Times - 179th Edition

A Humble Appeal to Build Temple and Cultural Center

अकालमा हे म मरी नजाऊँ
कयै काम नौलो नगरी नजाऊँ
आयुष्य देऊ र भविष्य देऊ

मभिन्न जीवन्त मनुष्य देऊ । - कवी माधव घिमिरे

I like to think what our children or some non-Nepali may feel when they enter in a big gallery to see two grand national flags hoisted side by side - one Nepalese along with an American, gloriously raised on the sides and a grand banner centered atop "WELCOME TO NEPALI AMERICAN CENTER – CHICAGO." On both sides also two large marble stones with gold color inscription of yours and several other names supporting to build this entire premises.

Dear FRIENDS: This just should not linger as an imagination anymore. It just should not be an aspiration in our heart any longer, rather we should turn it into a reality. Fortunately, we now have the means in both our numbers and resources needed to fulfil this dream to reality. I am saying this because I believe we can.

Honestly, the fact of the matter is it only demands us to cement this idea into our resolution first. And then asks what a small contribution in our life living in this land from a person like me has to be serious to ultimately transform all of our aspiration into noble truth. Have all of us thought about this common objective deeply in our heart?

Perhaps there are a few who are aware, but I know there are some other yet unaware to imagine the power of our will to shape the future of our children and their overall persona, their identity comprising of materialistic success from their hard work and rich aesthetic social, ethical and moral values they can build within. Who would disagree not to prefer such a balanced personality rather than just having huge material success. What would such a person be regarded in any society with deep respect and regard to their ancestral heritage?

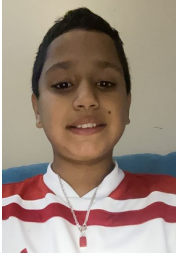
IMAGINE this: What will happen when we have accomplished building a physical facility that represents an asset common to us all, something that never existed before, a thing that needs to be done only once for us and for the future of our children? And why should any of us miss this opportunity to offer each of our support to fund it, small or big, whatever we can afford? Will it not lay a foundation in Chicago to permanently establish a pride of Nepalese identity that recognizes us as a proud and civil united community partaking in saving the culture from gradual impoverishment and end to become oblivion not too far in the future?

- Editorial - Dr. Bishnu Phuyal (Continued on pg3)

NEWSLETTER TEAM :

Ankur Sharma
Bishnu Phuyal
Yagna Pant
Binod Dhungel
Sarana Parajuli

For birthday
announcements, articles,
success stories,
quotations, poems, write
to us at
info@nepaliamericancenter
.org



Tornado Terror

One thing in common is that tornadoes strike everywhere and anytime. They cannot be predicted at a certain time and at a certain limit of time. Just a normal day in Dodge City, Kansas would lead to a violent and nasty tornado touching down.

This is Long John, a really mischievous boy but a good helper on the road. He could plow the lawn in under an hour and could wash the dish in under several minutes. But he had a downside, he was never caring about the weather and would go in any weather, he would go in dangerous, nice, sunny, and tornado kind weathers. But on a specific day, on the harvest day of October 1 where all of the vegetables, fruits, dairy, with lots more items would be stored would turn into the worst nightmare. While John was mowing the lawn before the harvest, he saw a strong rotation and a big funnel that would cause mass destruction in Dodge City. While he was harvesting shortly after mowing the lawn, he saw the funnel touching down and it looked like it wasn't moving then he remembered in his survival lessons' that if tornado appears' to not look like its moving, it's actually moving towards you and that you need shelter if you see that kind of danger.

Getting the help

John went to the storm cellar with his family members crouched up in a small area with egg cartons, pecan barrels, apple and orange crates, vegetables boxes, and ground coffee containers. He could smell the dirt coming from the vegetables that were just harvested as the violent twister was tearing the farm and leaving dirt tracks.

Just as the tornado passed, he called his two friends, Frilly Billy and Laso Pallaso for help and talked about a solution.

Then they'd got a brilliant idea that could bring no tornadoes. John purposed his plan by making sturdy tornado proof houses without wasting any money and no harm to the environment with a plan to never use cars and gas related vehicles and gas related hardware because it adds up a lot carbon dioxide, which, when its up in the atmosphere, it traps heat from the sun and the heat cannot escape, this particular idea is called the greenhouse effect because a greenhouse also traps heat. The carbon dioxide trapping heat from the sun results in a greenhouse effect, which causes global warming. So, when that happens, it causes more storms and rising sea levels. And tornadoes are especially capable of forming in warm moist air with cold dry and frigid air mixed with the jet stream which causes a tornado to form.

Putting the plan in action

Once they planned proposing the theory, they started getting cheap material like homemade bricks from Laso Pallaso's 10-acre of a hill that you collect clay from.

Then that brick was covered with bedrock which was premined for the job. Then the bedrock was placed outside of every house in Dodge City.

When that process was done, the owners of every house in the City were customized by their own favor and designs. Even shops and malls were covered with bricks and bedrock, coming in with the customizing was favorable by the shop owner's desire and looks.

Once the plan was finished, they explained the greenhouse effect to every single person in Dodge City, then convinced people not to use gas powered items but to use electric cars, run, bike, roller skate, scooter, and not using gas-related hardware but electric ones.

- Rasik Panta (Continued on page 3)



I am from

I am from Princess Peach from Mcdonalds
 From Hatchimals and LOL Dolls
 I am from the big apartment room
 with a pom-pom mirror, white popcorn walls, and a
 warm feeling, literally
 I am from Jared the squirrel, the squirrel from Band-
 shell park
 I am from the uncomfortable dresses and the long
 parties
 From Amulya and Sumeeta
 I am from going out to a special place for dinner and
 going to parks
 From "Be nice to your sister" and "try it and if you
 don't like it, don't eat it"
 I'm from Fellows Tug of War and 5th Grade Raffle
 Ticket Donuts
 I'm from Dallas, Texas, and Nepal
 Rice and Chocolate
 From being sick when my sister was born
 Watching Hocus Pocus and the Bean Boozle, I can
 still taste the dishwasher water.
 In the photo book and old locked phones
 Showing all the time that has passed

- Sazisa Sharma

Tornado Terror - Continued

The conclusion

Once the plan was finished, they celebrated by going to the chocolate factory and feasting on a huge rocky road with cookie dough ice cream. They'd enjoy it, but they were not grateful for eating dessert, they were grateful for saving many lives that could have been in danger. They were brave in themselves, courageous, they'd got the guts for helping a really kind society and keeping everyone safe, and they couldn't have done it without teamwork and like they already say, teamwork makes the dreamwork.

The theme of the story

Never be afraid to do anything.

You can never achieve anything without a team.

You can always be a helper whether it's helping pick up stuff or rebuilding a town.

- **Rasik Pant**

Editorial - Building Our Own Temple and Community Center - Continued

Dear FRIENDS: Since we concur on these issues, it must also be our prime responsibility to come out from the confines of the four walls of our little space to save the vastness of Nepalese Oneness from dissipation, begin preparing our children to be identifiable like ourselves before it gets too late and enable us to handover the baton in their hands to steer our culture into the future.

Yet again, it is inconceivable to take it lightly and not undertake this responsibility seriously for the sake of our children for whom we are so fervently longed for their material success but do nothing to build their inner self with social ethics and morals as taught by our own society knowing that each of us should and can do it? It is not very complicated to think about it with urgency in contrast of how our children will cherish our little monetary investment for this cause with what we could have saved for them otherwise.

The choice is simple. Whether we steer them to be able to uphold and retain our unique Nepalese cultural identity before it gets late or let the time take hold upon them without any knowledge of their own destiny and crumble their descendant's rich culture into the abyss. Are we so self-absorbed to prevent our children to spend their time for building mutual friendship among themselves like ONE Nepalese just for the sake of saving a morsel in the name of their education or whatever? In contrast, I believe that they will treasure our small sacrifice much more than any amount we may save; simply because we know they can earn their own living happily if they know who they are, identifying themselves as people of a proud culture rather than an entity without any identifiable inherited traits. This truth must be dissected by each responsible parent by comparing what we gain from making a small investment for its sake with what we can lose otherwise.

To understand this a bit clearly, here is a quote from an Indian politician and sociologist: The absence of an identity within you is a vacuum. It allows others to impose their identity on you. That is why we have to our own programs to craft our identity into our children." Is not this something we inherited from our parents and society and value so much in our life? If the answer is yes, can we ask ourselves what we are depriving our own children of? Are we loving them from our heart and soul or just letting them become slaves of material gains that can provide no lasting happiness?

Therefore, let us unite, pray and rise beyond the pathetic laxity to take a resolve that allows us to march forward to act for this noble purpose of building our own temples and cultures and identity and many more to fruition and leave our long passivity behind. This is a call for our UNITY to take our common steps forward together in this year and beyond. Doing so only assures us of beneficial personally and universally.

May all of us remain safe, healthy, and successful individually as well be able to share our success to build and strengthen our community. - **Dr. Bishnu Phuyal**



Houston Texans NFL Season Summary and Analysis

The Houston Texans season is over, but it was unexpectedly good. For the last 3 seasons before this one, they went a combined 11-38-1. But then this season they went up to 10-7, while winning the division. The big reason towards that happening, are the rookie players/ coaches on the team. Last year in the draft, they had picks #2 and #3 in the draft. They used those picks on quarterback C.J Stroud, and

defensive end Will Anderson Jr. C.J Stroud has played super good this season, he has the best odds at winning offensive rookie of the year. He is top 13 this season in all passing stats, and he is top 6 for rookies all time. Will Anderson Jr is top 2 in defensive rookie of the year odds, with no one even near him and the other runner. One more thing is, every time he plays, he is a presence on the field and is noticed. The last big rookie is actually the head coach Demeco Ryans. Before this season, he had always been on the 49ers, as a defensive coordinator. His defensive capabilities have really shown as in the 3 seasons before this one, the texans have allowed 420+ points each season, while this season they only allowed 350. Another instance of this, is, for points and yards in the 3 seasons before this one, the texans were never ranked higher than #27, while this season, they ranked as high as #11.

The whole texans core are young players, with running backs Dameon Pierce, and Devin Singletary, wide receivers Nico Collins, Tank Dell, and John Metchie, defensive backs Derek Stingley, and Jalen Pitre, and a lot more. The offensive line could use some help, other than allpro left tackle Laremy Tunsil.

In the final game of the season, they played the colts in a very tense game, where the winner would make the playoffs as the 4 seed. The game was close all game long until the end. The texans had scored, putting them 1 score ahead, and the fate of the game was in the hands of the colts. If they scored, they would win the game and make the playoffs, but if they didn't score, the texans would make the playoffs instead. The colts drove down the field seamlessly, until they were faced with a 4th down. It was 4th and 1, they attempted a short pass to Tyler Goodson... ITS DROPPED, THE TEXANS HAVE MADE THE PLAYOFFS!!! I remember watching the game that night, and I was so happy at that moment, no one would have believed this before the season.

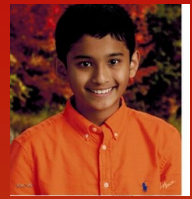
Fast forward to the NFL playoffs, and the texans are playing against the browns in the wildcard round. Earlier in the season the browns beat the texans so I was a little nervous going into the game. The beginning of the game went back and forth, 0-3, 7-3, 7-10, 14-10, 14-17, 14-24. At halftime it was 14-24 texans were winning, so I was a bit confident in the team, but its only 10 points and anything could happen. But I guess at halftime some sort of switch turned on in all of the texans players heads, because coming into the 2nd half, they had 2 straight pick 6's, and the score was suddenly 14-38. I was so happy you couldn't believe it. And to end the game the texans scored again putting the final score to 14-45, texans win. Just like the final game of the season, I was so happy, and looking forward to next week.

It is now next week, and texans have to face against the #1 team in the AFC, the ravens. This game would not end up making me happy at the end. The first half had given me hope, as the score was 10-10. Right out of half, the ravens scored a touch-down, making it 10-17. I wasn't worried, as that's still a close score. But then the texans couldn't score and the ravens kept on scoring. The final score was 10-34, the texans didn't score at all in the 2nd half.

Even though the end of the season was bad, the entirety of the season went a lot better than anyone could have predicted. - **Suvav Bhusal**

Best Wishes to our Feb Birthday Stars

Rohit Joshi -
Feb 1



Reena Pokhrel -
Feb 11



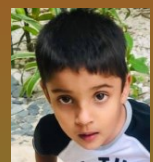
Tara Pokhrel -
Feb 13



Reena Dawadi -
Feb 21



Roniv Dawadi -
Feb 21



Shikha Adhikari -
Feb 23



Aaron Bhattarai -
Feb 2



Submit your birthday Information with the pictures by via email by 20th of the month.



Second World War - Part 3

Britain and US declare war on Japan - The government of the United Kingdom declared war on the Empire of Japan on 8 December 1941 following the Japanese attacks on British Malaya, Singapore and Hong Kong on the previous day (same day Malaya and Hong Kong time) as well as in response to the bombing of the US fleet in Pearl Harbor.

Doolittle Raiders bomb Japan - The Doolittle Raid was an air raid on 18 April 1942 by the United States on Japan's capital Tokyo and other places on Honshu Island during World War II. It was the first American air operation to strike the Japanese archipelago.

Battle of Midway - The Battle of Midway was a huge naval battle that took place from June 4-7, 1942. The battle was a victory for the US. The battle took place in Midway Atoll, a critical air and sea base located one third of the way between Honolulu and Tokyo. The battle dashed Japan's hopes of neutralizing the US as a naval power and effectively turned the tide of war in the Pacific.

Allies invade North Africa - The Allies invaded North Africa on November 8, 1942 in a military operation codenamed Operation Torch. The invasion took place across the beaches and parts in Morocco and Algeria. The Allies and the Axis Powers both wanted to control North Africa because of its natural resources, food supplies, strategic location and access to Middle Eastern oil.

The Battle of El Alamein - The Battle El Alamein was a World War II battle that took place in Egypt from July 1-27 and again from October 23 – November 11, 1942. The first battle ended in a stalemate, but it prevented the Axis from advancing further into Egypt. The second battle was a decisive victory for the British Army over the Axis Army of Italy and Germany.

Battle of Stalingrad - The Battle of Stalingrad was a major World War II battle that took place from August 23, 1942 to February 3, 1943. The battle resulted in a Soviet victory. The battle was over with 2.2 million casualties making it the bloodiest battle in history. In mid-November 1942, Soviet forces launched a counteroffensive against the Germans. They quickly encircled an entire German Army, more than 220,000 soldiers. In February 1943, after months of fighting, the surviving German forces surrendered.

Axis surrenders in North Africa - The Axis forces surrendered in North Africa on May 13, 1943 after the North Africa campaign of World War II. The Axis included the defeated Afrika Korps which Hitler and sent to support his Italian ally. The Axis forces surrendered in Tunisia, where they had suffered 40,000 casualties. The surrender included over 275,000 prisoners of war, including 267,000 German and Italian soldiers.

Allies invade Sicily - The Allied invasion of Sicily also known as Operation Husky, was a major World War II campaign that took place from July 9 – August 17, 1943. The Allies invaded the Italian island of Sicily and took it from the Axis. The invasion led to the fall of the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and the surrender of the Italian government to the Allies.

Italy surrenders - Italy surrendered to the allies on September 8, 1943. The surrender was the result of the collapse of the Fascist Italian regime and the fall of Benito Mussolini in July 1943. On September 3rd, 1943, Italy signed the armistice of Cassibile with the US and UK. The armistice was made public five days later.

Allies meet at Tehran - The Tehran conference was a secret meeting between Allied leaders Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin that took place from November 28 to December 1, 1943. The conference was held at the Soviet Union's embassy in Tehran and was codenamed Eureka.

German Siege of Leningrad ends - The German siege of Leningrad ended on January 27, 1944, after nearly 900 days. The siege began on September 8, 1941 when German troops cut off the city's food and water supply. The siege resulted in extreme famine, disease and psychological torment for the citizens of Leningrad.

Rome Liberated - The US Fifth Army liberated Rome on Jun 4, 1944 during World War II. Rome was the first Axis capital to be liberated of Nazi Germany occupation. The German Army declared Rome an open city, meaning it could be captured without fighting. The liberation was a blow to Nazi Germany's morale and made headlines around the world. - **Kritam Dhungel**



The GAME (Continued from Jan)

Characters of the Game :



"Well, since Prisha just said all that, why don't we just tell each other our stories" Annabelle suggested.

"First of all, how many of us were born in a game and what are everybody's powers?" Asked Zoe

"My power is that I can hold my breath for up to 1 hour," said Annabelle.

"My ability is that I can cook anything out of certain fish," said Zoe.

"My power is that I'm very smart," said Micheal.

"Weren't all of us already smart?" said Naman.

"Yeah, and that smart brain of mine is telling me that we should probably find something to eat," said Annabelle.

"Oh, and I can do martial arts and Prisha can talk to animals," said Naman.

"Did anybody else hear that?" asked Prisha.

"What does it sound like?" asks Zoe.

"Sounds like a beep-beep beep-beep beep-beep," responded Prisha.

"Isn't that the noise of the fire alarm in school?" asked Zoe.

"So, that would mean something is wrong with our base because there can't be a fire underwater," says Annabelle.

"The sound is coming from an animal," Micheal said.

"I can talk to animals, so I'll handle it," Prisha responded.

The animal that entered was a great white shark. Then, Prisha approached it. The shark felt threatened and attacked Prisha so she screamed as loud as she could. It was not very loud so the only one who heard her was Naman.

"Prisha is in trouble. I heard her scream," said Naman.

Prisha was bleeding quite a lot out of her arm. Then others came to help her as Prisha got out from the shark attack.

"Thanks, but did anybody see a box that said, "Species Discovered-Great White Shark" and another that said,

"Ability Used?" asked Prisha.

"I saw the first, not the second," answered Annabelle.

"Same," said Michael and Naman.

"Maybe, we can eat it," says Annabelle.

"Anybody knows how to cook?" asked Naman.

"I do for the most part," said Prisha.

"That's my ability," Zoe responded. "Oh yeah I forgot," said Naman.

Zoe then cooked the shark, and they ate it. It tasted alright so they decided to not eat Great White Sharks if they had another option but if they didn't, they would eat it.

"What about that second box that Prisha was talking about?" asked Naman.

"If I remember correctly every time you use your ability or some other achievement, you get a reward," Prisha replied.

"What was your reward because I just got that box?" asked Zoe.

"It offered me an option of a different ability or water and I took the water," responded Prisha.

"Oh, for me it said more food or a water filter what should I take?" asked Zoe.

"The water filter, with that we can filter the salty water to fresh water and there is already tons of food out there," replied Michael.

Zoe took the water filter, but she had to assemble it as it didn't come with instructions. As Michael was smart, he knew how to assemble it.

Prisha Parajuli (To be Continued.....)

Tax Preparation Highlights for Tax Year 2023

Dear taxpayers, tax time again to collect your all income and expenses documents to be ready to file your tax return 2023. Tax is a major source of income for any government, we all must comply with taxation throughout our life. There are several forms of taxes: income tax, sales tax, property tax, excise tax, consumption tax, estate tax, use tax and so on. Wikipedia writes, "A tax (from the Latin word 'Taxo') is a mandatory financial charge or some other type of levy imposed upon a taxpayer (an individual or other legal entity) by a governmental organization in order to fund various public expenditures." A person or business or legal entity files and pays taxes to the federal, state, city, and local authorities. A federal income tax is a tax levied by the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on the annual earnings of individuals, corporations, trusts, and other legal entities. Similarly, we must compute and pay taxes to the resident state and any other applicable states, city, and local governments where we worked or received taxable incomes.

We all are filing our 2023 tax return based on **Tax Cuts and Jobs Act 2017 (TCJA)** and updated provisions from **CARES Act 2020**. **TCJA** had reduced tax rates on wages, investment, business income and lowered corporate tax rate to 21%.

- Current seven tax brackets for 2023 and tax calculations

Single Individuals (other than Qualifying Surviving Spouses and Heads of Households)

If Taxable Income Is:	The Tax Is:
Not over \$11,000	10% of the taxable income
Over \$11,000 but not over \$44,725	\$1,100 plus 12% of the excess over \$11,000
Over \$44,725 but not over \$95,375	\$5,147 plus 22% of the excess over \$44,725
Over \$95,375 but not over \$182,100	\$16,290 plus 24% of the excess over \$95,375
Over \$182,100 but not over \$231,250	\$37,104 plus 32% of the excess over \$182,100
Over \$231,250 not over \$578,125	\$52,832 plus 35% of the excess over \$231,250
Over \$578,125	\$174,238.25 plus 37% of the excess over \$578,125

Married Individuals Filing Joint Returns and Qualifying Surviving Spouses

If Taxable Income Is:	The Tax Is:
Not over \$22,000	10% of the taxable income
Over \$22,000 but not over \$89,450	\$2,200 plus 12% of the excess over \$22,000
Over \$89,450 but not over \$190,750	\$10,294 plus 22% of the excess over \$89,450
Over \$190,750 but not over \$364,200	\$32,580 plus 24% of the excess over \$190,750
Over \$364,200 but not over \$462,500	\$74,208 plus 32% of the excess over \$364,200
Over \$462,500 but not over \$693,750	\$105,664 plus 35% of the excess over \$462,500
Over \$693,750	\$186,601.50 plus 37% of the excess over \$693,750

- Standard Deduction has been increased after inflation adjustment.
- Additional \$1850 for single and HOH 65 or over or blind, \$1500 for MFJ, individual who may be claimed as dependent no more than \$1250 or the sum of \$400 and the individual's earned income.
- Can give gift to one or many individuals or receive gift up to \$17000 without triggering gift tax.
- The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provides a \$500 non-refundable Credit for each Non-Child Dependents like relatives, parents.
- The deduction for moving expenses is suspended for tax years beginning after December 31, 2017, until January 1, 2026, except for move of the members of the Armed Forces on active duty.
- Eligible taxpayers can deduct up to 20% of qualified business income (QBI) from a domestic business.
- Standard mileage rate is increased to 65.5 cents for business use, 22 cents/mile driven for medical and moving and 14 cents/mile for charitable purposes

Filing statuses	Standard Deduction
Single	\$ 13850
Married Filing Jointly	\$ 27700
Married Filing Separately	\$ 13850
Head of Household	\$ 20800
Qualifying Widower with Dependent	\$ 27700

Tax Bracket	Short-term	Long-term
10%, 12% brackets	Ordinary rate	0%
22%, 24%, 32%, 35% brackets	Ordinary rate	15%
37% bracket	Ordinary rate	20%

Pension Plan Limitations:

- Contribution limit to pension plan increases to \$22,500 in 2023, catch up contribution limit for aged 50+ increases at \$7,500. Self-employed SEP plan limit is \$66,000.
- Traditional or Roth IRA limit increased to \$6500 and \$7500 for aged 50+ up to the income threshold limit.

*Sources: [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) and various online resources

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News Flash : NAC Executive Meeting Monthly Summary

Jan 21, 2024 - The executive board meeting was held virtually and we had a great beginning of the year, with great enthusiasm, thought provoking discussions and excitement at the meeting. Here is the meeting summary.

Welcome Message by Ankur Sharma: Ankur Sharma kicked off the meeting by expressing gratitude and reviewing previous activities. He emphasized the team's enthusiasm to establish a Nepali cultural center, urging members to contribute action-oriented ideas and resolutions.

Bishnu Phuyal's Update: Bishnu shared positive feedback on the Kids Corner initiative, emphasizing the importance of self-discipline, adherence to Temple Rules, and serving as role models for children.

Yagna Pant's Financial and Program Updates: Yagna provided financial updates and proposed a full-day Jeevan Bigyan program in Chicago. The need for a detailed plan and coordination with Sushil Sharma for the next meeting was emphasized. Yoga/Meditation benefits were highlighted, encouraging parents to involve kids.

Kids Corner - Temple Fun Time: Sarana Parajuli, Bishnu Phuyal, and Anita Ji outlined plans for the Kids Corner, Saraswati Bandana. Details included starting time, latecomers' participation, and various roles for parents and volunteers. Communication through email, Viber, and Zoom sessions was discussed.

Sanjay Bhusal's Feedback and Responsibilities for Sponsoring Families: Sanjay suggested creating roles for sponsoring families and emphasized clear communication, cleanliness, and proper closure after temple events.

Walk/Bike and Run Program: Plans for a charity event partnering with organizations in Nepal were discussed. Detailed plans for adult and kids' activities, involvement of sponsors, and outreach to other organizations were proposed.

NAC Trustee Update and Cultural Center Building: The urgency of building a cultural center was emphasized. A promotional flyer seeking trustees and donations was shared, with a call to publish names based on consent.

Round Table Discussion: Various members shared ideas on fundraising, kids' activities, program planning, and community outreach. Suggestions included attracting local organizations, quarterly planning, and involving kids in talent shows for fundraising.

Action Items: Numerous action items were identified, including planning Kids Corner activities, confirming Zoom sessions, coordinating with Sushil Sharma for yoga, creating roles for sponsoring families, collecting input on the promotional flyer, building a document repository on the website, and preparing for upcoming programs.

One key Highlight: 4 new trustees were added in January. We encourage everyone to reach out to their friends and families and emphasize on the importance of our own temple and community center. Lets Lead by an example.

Next Meeting: To be determined.

NAC Temple Fund—Jan '24 Summary

Thank you for attending Jan 2024 Monthly Puja, and for your generous contribution. Thanks to our sponsors, and our devotees, your presence, devotion and your contributions make it possible for us to give continuity to our regular Monthly Puja and Gathering. Here is the summary of our collection from Jan Puja.

Total Collection (Cash and Zelle) - \$834.46

Total Expense

Temple - \$225 | Priest - \$50 | Others: \$48.66

Total Expense : \$323.66



LET'S BUILD OUR OWN TEMPLE/COMMUNITY CENTER TOGETHER

Establish a self-sustaining Nepali Mandir and Cultural Center, uniting various social organizations in a joint effort. Seek nationwide support through Nepalese organizations to fulfill this long-awaited dream. Now is the prime time to make it happen. **Please join!**

Facility Features:

- Prayer/Puja Hall: Accommodation capacity up to 250 individuals
- Concert Hall: Capacity for approximately 500-1000 attendees
- Amenities: Kitchen and dining area
- Additional Spaces: Children's learning/play area, library, and souvenir shop
- Showcase Gallery: Exhibits Nepali artifacts
- Multi-Purpose Rooms: Available for smaller gatherings and activities
- Spiritual Programs: Aligned with Nepali traditions, fostering a holistic experience.
- Other Services: Social and welfare services

Leadership Structure:

- Governance: BT, EB and AB will guide operations.
- BT: Life members contributing \$10,000+, starting at \$1,000 with installments.
- EB: Elected from local organizations and key individuals chosen by BTs.
- AB: Nominees of the EB.
- Inclusivity: Committees formed for broader engagement.
- Transparency: Clear communication of progress and decisions to all stakeholders.

Membership Tiers:

Bronze: \$1000+ || **Silver:** \$2,500+ || **Gold:** \$5000+ || **Diamond (BT) :** \$10,000+

Recognition and Perks:

- Permanent Inscription: Secure a lasting legacy with your name in the center's facility upon Board's approval.
- Enjoy discounts on facility rentals at the Center.
- Exercise your right to vote in the General Election of the Center.

Capital Project Overview:

- Ownership: Facility ownership through contributions, one-time or in installments.
- Installments: 4 phases over 2-5 years, that is from pledge to the inauguration.
- Exploration: Actively seek external funding and land options.
- Action: BT and EB to act to find suitable properties.
- Current Capital: ~\$350,000.

Revenue Overview:

- Project Cost: ~\$1M for property or ~\$1.5M+ for new construction.
- Start: Begin with funds for building or land.
- Donor Potential: 5,000-7,000 Nepali Population, 1,000+ Chicagoland families.
- Nepali Families' Donation: Targeting \$1M+ from 1,000 families.
- External Funding: \$500,000
- Monthly Expenses: Utilities \$3,000, Insurance \$300, Maintenance \$750, Misc. \$1,000 - Total: \$5,000
- Monthly Revenue: Hall rentals (\$8,000 for 4 times/month) + General Members (\$5,000-\$7,000 from 500-700 members at \$10/month).

Abbreviations Used:

BT → Board of Trustees

EB → Executive Board

AB → Advisory Board

BECOME A TRUSTEE TODAY - WE NEED YOU.

Requirements: Donate 10K or more. We invite you to become a valued Trustee by contributing 10K or more to this noble cause. Your generous support can be provided in convenient installments:

a) Send 1K today - Before Jan 30th, 2024

b) Send remaining 4K when we select a property

c) Send remaining 5K when we do renovation

** Maximize your impact and save on taxes for this year by contributing through your workplace. Your commitment brings us closer to our vision of building a better future. Join today in making a lasting impact!

Goals: 2024 and Beyond

- Boost community awareness and fundraising.
- Engage with neighboring states and donor agencies.
- Seek property options in the area.
- Partner with local Nepali organizations, enhance existing programs, and introduce new events.

Contact Us Today at :
info@nepaliamericancenter.org

Partners: All Local Organizations that includes but not limited to: CNFS, NAD, Lali Guras, Danfe, NRNA-IL, CTS, CNTS, ANMA and Madhesi Associations.