



PRESS RELEASE

President

For Immediate Release

president@anfsusa.org

CONTACT: Parita Rajbhandari,

April 13, 2014 (New York, NY): America Nepal Friendship Society (ANFS) organized a cultural program to mark its 31st anniversary and celebrate the Nepali New Year 2071 in New York on April 12, 2014. The celebration was a part a long-standing and continuing tradition of ANFS which is devoted in preserving and promoting Nepali culture and tradition in the United States of America. ANFS is an association of individuals engaged in bringing the people of the United States and Nepal closer together in understanding, appreciation and cooperation. It is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit, and nonpolitical organization devoted to cultural, educational and public affairs, and to discussions, exchanges and studies in the area of vital interests to both people.

Over four hour long festive program began with singing of Nepali & American national anthems by Nepali youths.

A minute of silence was also observed in honor of late Jaya Hada, wife of Dibya Ratna Hada, the founding-president of ANFS.

In welcoming the dignitaries and guests, Dr. Rajendra Pradhan, the Chair of the Board of Advisors of ANFS extended his New Year greetings to everyone. Extending his congratulations to newly elected officers, Dr. Pradhan announced the following as duly elected leadership team of ANFS for the term 2014-2016:

- President- Parita Rajbhandari
- Vice President - Dr. Binay Shrestha
- 2nd. Vice President - Sharada Karki
- General Secretary - Alan David Freedman
- Treasurer - Bashistha Bilas Joshi
- Exe. Member - Kapila Devkota
- Exe. Member - Sanjay Parajuli

President Parita Rajbhandari extended the New Year's greeting and highlighted the activities of ANFS in the past and said that ANFS as a non-political organization

continued to participate actively in all social and cultural activities organized in New York area. She also announce the ANFS's donation of \$500.00 to Jaya Hada Scholarship fund.

Permanent Representative of Nepal to United Nations His Excellency Durga Prasad Bhattarai was the chief guest at the event. Among other high ranking dignitaries who participated in the program were His Excellency Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and former NY City Comptroller John Liu. Dr. Tulsi Maharjan, a life member of ANFS who is also the current President of Friends of Nepal NJ as well the President of Rotary International District 7510, Founding-President of ANFS Dibya Ratna Hada, Past Presidents Mr. Kamal Bd. Karki, Dr. Tara Niraula, Mrs. Muna Belbase & Dr. Binod Shah.

ANFS honored a selected group of individuals for their outstanding achievements and contributions to ANFS and in their respective fields. They included Mrs. Lakpa Phuti Sherpa, Member Secretary of Nepal Mountaineering Academy & President of Women's Mountaineering Association, for her pioneering contributions to mountaineering field; Singer Lakpa Sherpa for his over three-decades long contribution to the field of Nepali music and the legendary music composer, Singer & lyricist Shambhujit Baskota for his over four-decade long outstanding contributions to Nepali music field.

Mrs. Subarna Chhetri was honored for her outstanding leadership and dedicated service to America Nepal Friendship Society and Nepali American Community in developing and promoting Nepali performing arts and culture. Dr. Rajendra Pradhan, Chairman of ANFS was honored with Life Time Achievement Award in recognition of his outstanding leadership, distinguished service and his continuing commitment to America Nepal Friendship Society and for his contributions to help preserve Nepali culture and promote friendship between the people of the United States and Nepal. All the awards were handed out by the Chief Guest His Excellency Durga Prasad Bhattarai.

Chief Guest Ambassador Bhattarai, extending the New Year's greetings commended each of the honorees for their contributions made to the society. Recalling his past memories of ANFS, Ambassador Bhattarai stated that ANFS had the potential be an umbrella organization for all. His Excellency Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under Secretary General of United Nations who is also an honorary member of America Nepal Friendship Society- in extending his new year greetings- expressed his satisfactions over the contributions made by ANFS to the Nepali American Society and wished for the organization's continuing success in the days to come. John Liu, former Comptroller of the City of New York also extended his New Year's greetings to Nepali community and expressed his happiness for the opportunity to be a part of the celebrations and praised Nepali Americans for their contributions to the city and the nation.

The second part of the program began with a dazzling Katthak dance by Seneca Pradhan. Other outstanding artists and presenters who gave their best performances included:

Bishakha Basnet, Zara Prasai, Anupama Sapkota, Pragya Sapkota, Sreya Belbase, Pujoyata Rajbhandary, Kripali Gautam, Abinav Parajuli, Goma Gurung, Tilak Shrestha, Yashodha Khaling Rai, Nara Bahadur Dahal, Basanti Rai, Pabita Pariyar, Tejaswi Thapa, Gopal Nepal, and Sirjana Adhikari. The famous music composer Shambhujit Baskota and renowned Nepali singer Lakpa Sherpa also mesmerized the audience with their performances.

The first part of the formal program was conducted by Bijay Thapa. The cultural-entertainment part was jointly emceed by Mr. Ram Raj Chhetri & Mr. Prashan Alung Rai. Certificate distribution was coordinated by Parita Rajbhanadari and Dr. Rajendra Pradhan and Mrs. Kapila Devkota delivered the vote of thanks to everyone for their participation and support to the Nepali New Year's celebration. The cultural program was followed by dinner, attractive raffle prizes, DJ & Dance. The event was held at Chian Federation Hall, Astoria, New York. Over 250 local Nepali community members, including leaders from various organizations, press and American friends of Nepal attended the event.

For more information about ANFS and to become a member, please visit www.anfsusa.org or contact us at president@anfsusa.org or paritarajl@yahoo.com

#