



## Press Release America Nepal Friendship Society

America Nepal Friendship Society on its 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary organized a cultural program to celebrate Nepali New Year 2069 in Woodside, New York on April 7, 2012. This celebration was a part of ANFS's long tradition 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 nonprofit and nonpolitical organization devoted to cultural, educational and public affairs, and to discussions, exchanges and studies in the vital interests of our combined community.

Nepali national anthem was played at the beginning of the program. Dr. Rajendra Pradhan, the Chair of the Board of Advisors of ANFS, welcome & extended the New Year greetings to all the guests, highlighted the importance of such cultural programming not just for entertainment purpose, but more importantly for preserving Nepali traditions and educating American friends of Nepal about Nepal's rich cultural heritage.

President Dr. Binod Shah extended the New Year's greeting and highlighted the past activities of ANFS & active participation of ANFS in all social activities in & around the New York including the blood donation program. He also announced the ANFS/Marvin Burstin scholarship program, where each year one student from SLC top ten will be rewarded with Rs.100001, the student must be from public school.

The dazzling cultural program started with Ganesh Nritya by Alisa Radhika Shah, were performed by several artists including Rayan Shrestha, Rohit Sharma, Roshan Sharma, Prassna Shah, Kripali Gautam, Goma Gurung, Rajendra Rai, Anjelina Rai, Tejaswai Thapa, Pujyata Rajbhandari, Aishwarya Sharma, Sreya Belbase, Bashanti Rai, Gita Biralakoti, Rakshya Bista, Ram Shrestha. NY based poet Binod Roka recited his poems.

ANFS also honored a selected group of individuals for their outstanding community service and long support to ANFS included Devi Thapa Oli, Ms.

Toran Pradhan Jain, Mr. Deepak Shrestha & Mr. Ram Shrestha. The awards were presented by chief guest Consular general of Nepali embassy to New York, Mr. Amrit Rai & ANFS chairman Dr. Rajendra Pradhan.

The coordinator of the election committee of ANFS, Mr. Yakshya Malla announced the formation of the new executive committee of America Nepal Friendship Society for the period of April 2012 to March 2014 & congratulated the new members. The new executive committee is as following:

**President: Ms. Parita Rajbhandari**  
**Vice President: Dr. Binaya Shrestha**  
**General Secretary: Dr. Rosy Rajbhandary**  
**Treasurer : Ms. Sharada Karki**  
**Executive Member: Mr. Sanjay Parajuli**  
**Executive Member: Ms. Kapila Devkota**

The incoming president Ms. Parita Rajbhandari wished Happy New Year & thanked everyone for electing her to the post of president & assured all that together with her team, she will try to fulfill the goal of ANFS & request cooperation & help from all well wishers of ANFS to help her achieve the goal of ANFS.

ANFS Chairman Dr. Rajendra Pradhan welcomed & congratulated the new team. Chief guest Mr. Amrit Rai extended New Year 2069 B. S. greeting to all Nepalese in America, Nepal, and around the world. He stressed that because Nepali culture concerns Nepali identity, it is critical to preserve, promote, and celebrate Nepali cultural events such as the Nepali New Year. Also, he congratulated the new executive committee & wishes them the success.

ANFS's past President Mr. Kamal Karki, Dr. Tara Niraula & Ms. Muna Belbase also congratulated the new team & wished them success & highlighted past activities of ANFS.

General Secretary Mr. Bijaya Thapa was the Master of Ceremony for the whole program. Ram Raj Chhetri & Mr. Shailesh Shrestha conducted the cultural part of the program. Outgoing president, Dr. Binod Shah, thanked everyone for their participation and support for the Nepali Year's celebration. The cultural program was followed by dinner, raffles with attractive prizes, music, and dance that lasted until late at night. About 200 local Nepali community members and friends of Nepal were in attendance. The event was held at Sagarmatha Restaurant, a Nepali owned business in Queens, New York.

Parita Rajbhandari  
President  
America-Nepal Friendship Society.  
[www.anfsusa.org](http://www.anfsusa.org)