



## AMERICA-NEPAL FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, INC.

### Press Release America Nepal Friendship Society

Date: April 14, 2013

America Nepal Friendship Society organized its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary cultural program to celebrate Nepali New Year 2070 in Astoria, New York on April 13, 2013. This was a part of ANFS's long tradition to preserve and promote Nepali culture and tradition in the United States of America.

The program began with Second Vice President Dr. Aristidis Nikolitsis's welcoming words and the Nepali national anthem was played.

Dr. Rajendra Pradhan, the Chair of the Board of Advisors for ANFS, welcomed and extended the New Year's greeting to all the guests, highlighted the importance of such cultural programming is not just for entertainment purposes, but more importantly for Nepal's rich cultural heritage.

President Parita Rajbhandari extended the New Year's greeting and highlighted the past activities of ANFS & active participation of ANFS in all social activities in and around the New York including the blood donation programs. She also mentioned there will be another fundraising program soon to raise funds for the SLC Scholarship program, which could not be started due to a lack of sufficient funds from last year. She introduced the executive committee members:

Vice President Dr. Binaya Shrestha, 2nd Vice President Dr. Aristidis Nikolitsis  
General Secretary Mr. Bijawya Thapa, Treasurer Ms. Sharada Karki  
Executive Member Ms. Kapila Devkota & Executive Member Mr. Sanjaya Parajuli

There was a slide show presentation on "Chepang School" of Chitwan Nepal by Rahul Gautam & Prasanna Shah. Mr. Badri Poudel coordinated the slide show. ANFS will donate a portion of the contribution from the New Year's Program to Chepang School in Nepal.

Acting Permanent Representative of Nepal to UN her Excellency, Sewa Adhikari, was welcomed by two kanyas offering a flower bouquet.

ANFS honored a selected group of individuals for their outstanding community service and long support to ANFS. Mrs. Jaya Hada was awarded for her continuous support to ANFS since the organization was founded in 1983. Treasurer Mrs. Sharada Karki spoke about Mrs. Jaya Hada's contribution to ANFS. Ms. Brooke Laura was awarded for her outstanding leadership and distinguished service to provide quality education to the children of rural Nepal. Executive member Ms. Kapila Devkota spoke about Brooke's contribution in educating rural Nepali children. Singer Meera Rana was honored for her outstanding contribution and commitment in

developing, promoting and preserving Nepali performing arts, culture and playback singing, the MC of the program, Mr. Ramraj Chhetri who himself is also an artist, spoke about Mrs. Rana's long history and contribution to nepali music field. Dr. Binod Shah was awarded in recognition of his outstanding leadership and dedicated service to America Nepal Friendship Society and other Nepali American Community as ANFS President 2010 - 2012. President Parita Rajbhandari spoke about his contribution to ANFS & the Nepali community. The awards were presented by chief guest & Acting Permanent Representative of Nepal to UN her Excellency Sewa Adhikari Lamsal & ANFS Chairman Dr. Rajendra Pradhan. Her Excellency Madam Adhikari extended New Year's greetings to all Nepalese community members & wished ANFS to be more successful on its mission in the coming years.

Under Secretary General of United Nations – OHRLLS, Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya also the honorary member of America Nepal Friendship Society, was honored by offering dosalla by Chairman Dr. Rajendra Pradhan & Madam Sunita Acharya was offered flower Bouquet by Founder President Mr. Dibya Ratna Hada. USG Acharya spoke about contribution of ANFS to the Nepali American Society & extended New Year's greetings to all guests & wish success of the organization.

New York City Comptroller John C. Liu was welcomed by President Parita Rajbhandari. Past president of ANFS & social worker Dr. Tara Niraula offered the khada and spoke about their friendship. Comptroller Liu mentioned his candidacy for the mayor of New York City later this year and congratulated and wished all the Nepalese a happy new year.

The dazzling cultural program started with Ganesh Nritya by Alisa Radhika Shah. The performance included several artists: Anupama Sapkota, Pragya Sapkota, Yemi Niraula, Sreya Belbase, Pujoyata Rajbhandary, Kripali Gautam, Goma Gurung, Rajendra Rai, Anjelina Rai, Shameen Joshi, Tejaswi Thapa, Kabina Maharjan, Sachiko Maharjan, Menaka Maharjan, and the famous singer Meera Rana, who was the highlight of the program.

The Masters of Ceremony for the cultural program were Mr. RamRaj Chhetri and Mr. Shailesh Shrestha, who conducted the cultural part of the program smoothly and well. Vice President Dr. Binaya Shrestha and General Secretary Mr. Bijaya Thapa coordinated certificate distribution. They thanked everyone for their participation and support for the Nepali New Year's celebration. The cultural program was followed by dinner, raffles with attractive prizes, DJ & music. The event was held at Circulo Espanol Inc. Hall at 41-01 Broadway, Astoria, New York.

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