



## बोर्ड सभापतिज्यूको सन्देश



यो विशाल देश लगायत विश्वका कुनै पनि कुना काप्चामा बसोबास गर्नु हुने समस्त किरात राई तथा हाम्रा शुभचिन्तकहरूमा साकेलाको हार्दिक शुभकामना ! भुगोलको विषमताले हामी एक-अर्कालाई टाढा राखे तापनि यहाँहरूले हाम्रो सस्थाप्रति देखाउनु भएको सदासयताले तपाईंहरूको समीपमा रहेको महसुस गर्दछु । म यस अंकको न्यूजलेटर मार्फत किरात राई सोसाइटी अफ अमेरिकाको स्थापनाकाल २००३ देखि लिएर २०११ साल सम्मको लामो यात्रा अवधिभरि मैले समेटेको मेरा अनुभवहरू संक्षेपमा प्रस्तुत गर्न चाहन्छु ।

अहिले जमाना विज्ञानको छ, संचार माध्यमहरू प्रसस्त हुदा-हुदै पनि पुरानै जमानाको हातले लेखेको पत्रको आशा गर्ने साथीहरू भेटिन्छन । साकेला हामी सम्पूर्ण राई जातिहरूको साझा पर्व हो भनेर जान्दा जाँदै पनि मलाई निम्तो आएन र गईन भन्नेहरू पनि पाईन्छन । संस्थाले हुलाक मार्फत निम्तो पठाउने कार्यदेखि सके-जानेसम्मका सबै अन्य उपायहरू नअपनाएको भने होईन । हाम्रो भाषा, संस्कृति, भेषभूषा, र हाम्रो गरगहनाको संरक्षण, सम्बर्धनका लागि समय निकाल्नु पर्ने जमानामा निम्तो पत्रको आशा गर्दै अरुलाई आक्षेप लगाउने साथीहरू अझै हाम्रो समाजमा भेट्दा मलाई अलि असहज लाग्छ । आगमी दिनहरूमा यहाँहरूको अपेक्षा र सुझाव बारे संस्थाले ध्यान पुर्याउने छ ।

यस संस्थाको स्थापनाकालतिर अमेरिकामा साकेला नाच नाचन जान्ने राई बन्धुहरू औंलामा गन्न सकिने संख्यामा थिए । हाम्रो मौलिक भेषभूषा र गरगहना पहिरिएर साकेला नाचन आउनेहरू त झन् न्युन देख्न पाईन्थ्यो । **Continue on Page 2.**



## Sumnima Sanjh-II

Sumnima Sanjh-II was held at Woodside, New York Sargarmatha Restaurant and Bar on December 25, 2010. It was organized by the Kirat Rai Society of America (KRSA), coordinated by the vice president Mr. Abhishek Rai with three main purposes: to promote Kirat Rai culture, collect fund to buy land in the United States to establish a Sakela Than, and enhance a harmonious relationship among other community organizations.

The program was inaugurated by chief guest Shankar Bairagi, Deputy Representative, Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations. More than 350 people gathered and it was a huge

success with surplus amount of \$2111.89.

The program, which included honored singer Sapana Shree and Bijaya Poudel, editor-in-chief of Vishwa Sandesh, was divided in two episodes and conducted by Wakasha Bantawa and Prashan Alung Rai. KRSA especially thanks Nepali communities of New York for their support in making Sumnima Sanjh-II a grand success.

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अन्य संस्थाले साकेला नाचको अनुरोध गरेमा नाचन जान्नेहरू जुटाउन धेरै राज्यमा फोन घुमाउनु पर्थ्यो । तर अहिले सिली टिपेर नाचन जान्नेहरूको संख्या बढेको छ । नव युवा भाइ-बहिनीहरूको आगमन ठुलो संख्यामा रहेको छ । उनीहरूले हाम्रो संस्कृति, भेषभूषा, गरगहना भनेको साकेवा हो, र साकेवा चाड भनेको राई जातिहरूको पहिचान हो भन्ने बुझेका छन् । प्रत्येक भाइ-बहिनीहरूको आ-आफ्नै मौलिक वस्त्र र गरगहना छ । यसरी हाम्रो पहिचानलाई युगौसम्म सम्हालेर लैजानु पर्छ भन्ने बुझेर आफ्ना कलेजको पढाई, कामको चापलाई थाति राखेर, र समयको अभावमा पनि भ्याई-नभ्याई अति सक्रिय भई यो संस्थाको लागि सँधै तत्पर रहने हाम्रो नयाँ पीढिका भाइ-बहिनीहरू वाकासा, निला, दिक्षान्त, सजना, सुमना, वर्षा, सान्केन, यसो दा राई, कला राई श्रेष्ठ र नितु खापुंग जस्तो युवाहरूलाई पाउँदा मलाई अति खुशी लाग्छ ।

अमेरिकामा बसोबास गर्ने हामी सम्पूर्ण राईहरूलाई हाम्रो पहिचान यो मुलुकमा पनि बनाउनु पर्छ भन्ने कुरा महसुस भएको हुनाले २००३ मा वासिंगटन डि. सी. मा राईहरूको संस्था स्थापना वारे छलफल गरिएको थियो, र एक वर्षसम्म यस संस्थाको नाम सोचनको लागि सबै राई बन्धुहरूलाई समय दिइएको थियो । सो एक वर्ष बात कोलोराडोमा विधान परित गर्दै संस्थाको नाम Kirat Rai Society of America (KRSA) नामकरण गरि संस्था स्थापना गरिएको हो ।

त्यसैले, संस्था हाम्रो पहिचान हो भन्ने सोचेर आफुलाई राई हुनुमा गर्व मानी जहाँ गएपनि आफ्नो संस्कृति बचाई राख्न पर्छ भन्ने ठानेर संस्थामा आवद्ध होउं, आफ्नो संस्थालाई खोजौं, र नयाँ अस्थित्व निर्माण र विकासमा जुटौं ।

गत साल २०१० मा संस्थाको दोस्रो साधारण सभा र साकेला कोलोराडो राज्यमा सम्पन्न भएको थियो । त्यति बेला नेब्रास्कामा अध्ययन गर्नु हुने बिद्यार्थी मिलन राई गुगल सर्च गरेर साकेला पर्व मनाउन कोलोराडो आइपुगेका थिए भने यस पटक मेरिल्याण्ड निवासी पवन राई न्यु योर्कको कुइन्स बृज पार्कमा २०११ को साकेला सम्पन्न हुदा फेसबुकमा पता लगाइ साकेला मनाउन आइपुगेका थिए । यसरी यी दुई राई भाइहरू हाम्रो लागि राम्रो उदाहरण बनेका छन् । म मिलन र पवनलाई स-हृदय स्वागत गर्दै अरु राई बन्धुहरूलाई पनि आफ्नो संस्था र समुदायलाई साथ दिन हार्दिक अनुरोध गर्दछु ।

त्यसैगरी, हाम्रो संस्थालाई सहयोग गर्नु हुने अमेरिकाका विभिन्न संघ-संस्थाहरू, र सम्पूर्ण राई बन्धुहरूलाई धन्यवाद दिन चाहन्छु । साथै, विशेष धन्यवाद चाहिँ संस्थालाई अनवरत रुपमा महत्वपूर्ण योगदान पुर्याउनु हुँदै आउनु भएका चमा राईलाई दिन चाहन्छु ।

अन्त्यमा, यो वर्ष उच्च शिक्षा मास्टर सकाएर एक खुड्किलो माथि जानु हुने बहिनीहरू सान्केन र वर्षा राईलाई धेरै-धेरै बधाई दिदै उज्ज्वल भविष्यको शुभकामना दिन चाहन्छु ।

धन्यवाद !

मणि वाइदेल, बोर्ड सभापति

## Congratulations



Kirat Rai Society of America (KRSA) heartily congratulates its adviser Mr. Thaneswor Rai as the newly elected president for US Nepal Sports and Culture Development Inc., Mr. Rai was elected on June 12, 2011 in New York by the 1st General Convention. We, all KRSA family members, wish a very successful leadership for his term.

## Regular Meeting

As the matter of fact, we are living in a great nation of the earth. It is so difficult to hold the regular meeting in a round table because it could cost a lot with respect to big amount of time and financial burden to the participants. Despite these challenges and responsibilities, KRSA is organizing its first regular meeting on an appointed spot and it will take place in the end of December 2011. This project is initially being led by the President Chandra (Akash) Rai.

## President's Note

### Let' Us Be Organized

The Nobel laureate, Indian poet Rabin-drath Tagore once wrote:

*"Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark."*

These beautiful words profoundly express my experience of the past eight years I have spent working to preserve, promote and develop the Kirat Rai identity in the United States.

After a short period of establishment, KRSA faced structural crisis, but our abundant faith for our new organization made us capable to revitalize it; we worked together

and settled all kinds of difficulties. Ultimately, we established a belief that there is no big challenge and un-solvable problem in our organization. Our strong faith on KRSA appealed us to carry the roles on like the ants and work day and night to build a gigantic home to bring new possibilities, and to create new identity. We are birds; we fulfilled duties by singing harmonious songs. We fondled the shine of wisdom. We are empowered by the power of ancestors' spirit. We did not lose the dignity of our ancestors. It will transfer generation to generation.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> General Convention gave me

the opportunity to serve KRSA as the president, and I continuously worked to institutionalize it. At this time, I feel I have completed unfinished business for our organization with my fellow team members. KRSA is institutionalized. All support from every member of KRSA is highly valued. To be more organized, I worked with people whose age ranges from four-years-old kids to over eighty-years-old elders. I meet and speak to them, and specifically get comments and their inputs about impact of the action plan. **Continue on page 4**

## FIPNA

After a long discussion, KRSA joined in Federation of Indigenous People of Nepal in America (FIPNA) and participated its 3rd convention by making specific purposes in joining FIPNA. KRSA wants to play a positive and supportive role in FIPNA to improve entire Nepalese indigenous peoples' social, cultural and economic aspects. KRSA thanks Mr. Mani Bangdel, Board Chairperson and Mr. Khagendra Rai, Board of Director, who led the project to join the FIPNA.

## Rai Dance and Instruments Class



The class started this year in Colorado to teach children the history, importance and meaning and types of the Sakela dance and Silees. It also introduces them to Rai languages.

Class was conducted by the coordination and instruction of KRSA president Chandra (Akash) Rai and students were Namrata Rai, Nirmith Shrestha, Rachin Rai, Sapana Sanders and Sumnima Rai.

## Blood Donations



Sumana Rai donating blood on 8 May 2011

There are various ways one can provide enrichment and growth to one's mental, physical and spiritual well-beings. The act of live-giving through blood donation is one of those ways. KRSA encourages members in good health to donate blood. Recently, NY Chapter donated blood by organizing an event "Blood Donation and Free Health Check-up Camp" with 12 Nepali community organizations. Contact your local fellow members and friends and conduct a blood drive.

## Scholarship 2010

The KRSA scholarship, which started in 2006, reached its fourth year in 2010. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide assistance to the students and schools in remote villages of Nepal.

It is granted annually. For the year 2010, the scholarship was granted to Miss. Kanchan Rai and Miss Binita Rai, 8 grade students of Shree Prakash Higher Secondary School, Prakashpur, Sunsari. KRSA is deeply grateful to Mrs. Chanda Rai for her support and spending huge amount of time distributing.

## Donations

Since the establishment of KRSA, donation contribution has been made to support needy people for the purposes of culture, education and humanitarian welfare. KRSA donated \$155.00 to late **Chitra Bdr Gurung**, Nepali National swimmer's widow Ritamaya and son Ajaya. Donation was made possible by generous donors' contributions. Also, it contributed \$216.00 to **Chandra Kumar Hatuwali Rai**, who is making a Kirat Rai culture and religion based NAKCHHONG documentary in Nepal. We feel proud for being able to contribute donations.

## Team Member Introduction



We are extremely pleased to announce that Wakasha Bantawa has joined as a Central Executive Committee Member of KRSA.

Miss Bantawa is originally from Phidim in Panchthar, Nepal. Her respect and desire to preserve Rai Culture encouraged Wakasha to join KRSA. Wakasha finished her school from the Siddhartha Boarding Higher Secondary School in Damak, Jhapa. After completing school, Wakasha joined at Everest College in Kathmandu, and completed her 10+2. With strong desire to challenge herself to do the best, she aspired to continue her education in the United States, where she could fulfill her big dreams and celebrate further success. She was always inspired by her mother, Man Kumari Rai, who advised: "Do what you dream, discover the core of success and all your dreams will come true." In 2008, she joined Hesston College in Kansas and began experiencing a different world. After a semester, Wakasha transferred to LaGuardia Community College in Queens, New York where she excelled and achieved Dean's List every semester, and graduated with an Associate's Degree in Science on February 28, 2011. During her college education in New York where worked as an accounting intern at WorldNow where she was hired as a fulltime Junior Staff Accountant upon graduation.

Wakasha started singing Bhajan for the Bal Vikas, i.e. Sai Baba, which she finds very peaceful. Wakasha is also an excellent dancer with her performances at various stages, including Sherpa Kidyug's Summer Sports in New York, 2010. In fact, when she dances, she forgets everything and finds an inner peace. She continues to experiment with her dancing, with aims to explore further realms.

In addition, she is actively involved in sports, earning her a Brown Belt in Karate after five years' of training. She also won the 800 meters running competition in her college. In fact she was the captain of the Everest College for two years during which time she led her college into the first place for Inter Valley College Championship Tournament. During the same time, she also worked at Serving Minds Pvt. Ltd. in Kathmandu.

Wakasha hopes that by joining KRSA, she will be able to work as part of team that will bring all the Rais in the United States together to work hard to preserve their beloved culture, and also bring everyone together to help each other and the community. She has already successfully carried out her responsibilities as a secretary for the Summnima Sanjh II and Sakela Celebration in 2011. Wakasha is full of energy, and her confidence and willingness in taking responsibilities exhibit her passion to serve her community.

This fall, Wakasha is going join one of the best business schools in New York; Baruch College. Her long term educational goal is to obtain CPA license and eventually move towards a combination of law and accounting. Good luck, Wakasha!

### Note continue from page 3

I find joy when people from different states become members, renew membership, take responsibilities, bring new ideas, and put effort, energy, money and time to do better work for their community with a great enthusiasm. These benevolent gifts prove how loyal and devoted they are to the society.

We, all KRSA team members, welcome and encourage especially newcomers, and we are committed in creating a friendly and supportive environment for the community servers.

Let us be organized to develop a more highly cultured society.

Chandra (Akash) Rai, President

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## Action Plan

1. Cultural Program
2. KRSA Student Support
3. Organization Expansion and Restructuring
4. US Rais' Community Development
5. Financial Program

