



Annual General Meeting 12/22/2024

Report of the President Rameshor Bhandari:

Respected Members of the General Assembly,

Namaste and welcome to the 2024 Annual General Meeting! I would like to extend my profound gratitude to my fellow board colleagues for their outstanding teamwork and dedication throughout my two-year term as the president of our prestigious Foundation. I hope this spirit of collaboration will continue in the years to come.

I am deeply grateful to our advisors, Board of Trustees, life members, donors, and members of the Nepali diaspora for your unwavering support. It is truly a privilege to serve as the President of this esteemed Foundation and to lead it to the next level.

This AGM presents an opportunity for us to reflect on the past year's activities and the successes we have achieved. I will take a few minutes to highlight some of our key accomplishments and share my suggestions for the future.

This year, we focused our efforts on collecting the donations pledged by our community members during Los Angeles Spiritual Festival and Shiva Mahapuran in July 2023. This event proved to be a turning point, not only strengthening our financial position but also attracting new and emerging donors to our Foundation's network.

Our commitment to building a community center remains unwavering, and we understand that achieving this vision requires robust financial support. As many of you know, our team has been diligently working to generate revenue.

This year, we successfully raised approximately \$500,000, and our current bank balance exceeds \$1.2 million. Our team has remained focused on collecting pledged donations and working towards securing the property for the proposed Nepalese Cultural Center (NCC).

This year, we reached out to all our donors at least three to four times, requesting them to fulfill their pledged contributions. As the team leader, I personally contacted most of the donors to express our gratitude for their pledges and ongoing support on behalf of the Foundation. Additionally, we hired a part-time staff member to contact donors. We have made a significant progress in strengthening the Foundation, which now consists of three wings: Shree Pashupatinath and Buddha Mandir, Nepalese Cultural



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Center, and Nepali Pathashala. Their DBA names have been officially registered with the County of Los Angeles. Our temple is running smoothly, and the Nepali Pathashala is experiencing a significant growth. Currently, **around 90 students** are enrolled in the Nepali language class. In addition, we introduced Sanskrit class last year, which now has **12 students**, some of whom participate online. I am happy to share that all these programs are self-sustaining.

Dear members, the NCC project we launched last year may seem ambitious, but it is essential to meet the growing needs of our community. Our current temple is unable to accommodate devotees during special events, which underscores the necessity of this project. Although we have been actively searching for a suitable property for the NCC, we have yet to find one that meets our needs. The available properties either exceed our budget or are not suitable for our vision. As a result, we have focused our efforts on collecting pledged contributions, and I am pleased to report that we are in a strong financial position. To continue advancing the NCC project, it is crucial that we maintain our efforts in securing these pledged donations.

We have collected a substantial amount in the past one-and-a-half years. You would agree that securing nearly 40 percent of pledged donations is exemplary for a nonprofit organization like ours. This success would not have been possible without the collective efforts of our community members. I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for your generous donations, support, and hard work in making last year's grand fundraising project a reality. I look forward to your continued involvement as we move forward.

Together, we have accomplished a great deal, but there is still much more to be done. Now, I would like to take a moment to highlight some of our most significant achievements.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Attraction of new and emerging donors:** Our organization has seen a significant growth in membership and new donors since we conducted **Los Angeles Spiritual Festival and Shiva Mahapuram in July 2023**. This event has already proven to be a milestone in laying the groundwork for the Nepalese Cultural Center (NCC) we have envisioned, having raised approximately \$850,000 of the \$2.2 million in pledges.



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- Our organization now has 321 Life Members and 115 Board of Trustee Members.
- **Continuation of Nepali Calendar:** We started publishing Nepali Calendar since this board assumed office.
- **Installation of security apparatus:** We secured our temple with a taller fence and installed additional security cameras and motion detecting lights.
- **Sanskrit class an addition to Nepali Pathasala:** We expanded our Nepali Pathasala by adding Sanskrit class in September 2023. Our Nepali and Sanskrit language programs are fully self-sustaining.
- **Sunday Prasad:** We managed to offer prasad (food) every Sunday throughout the past two years.
- **Networking with local elected officials:** We have tried to obtain government support for our Foundation by meeting local elected officials at our temple and interacting with them. This year, we organized presentation meetings with Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia and California State Assemblywoman (67th District) Sharon Quirk-Silva.
- **Application for State Grants:** We have applied for a security grant with the State of California.

Suggestions for the future:

I would like to offer the following suggestions to the new board of directors:

1. Purchase property for the Nepalese Cultural Center and collect at least one million pledged donations.
2. Reach out to new donors: Add patrons, trustees, and life members.
3. Increasing enrollment in automatic payment plan: We should reach out to all Trustees and life members to enroll them in the dollar-a-day program. Offer free birthday puja to the family members who enroll in the dollar-a-day-program. This board decided this on March 26, 2023.
4. There is an ongoing controversy regarding the calendar of festivals observed by Nepali diaspora in various countries. Our temple is observing traditional Nepali calendar, and we took this decision at our last year's AGM. The controversy continues. We initiated conversations with other temple's executives and trustees, but this issue remains inconclusive. The new board should continue to work in this direction.
5. Some donors enrolled in the dollar-a-day program have expressed interest in deducting their pledged dues from their monthly contributions. Allowing



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donors to combine their contributions could help maximize monthly income and expedite pledge collections. I hope this AGM can take a decision in this regard.

It has been a pleasure working together with each one of you to make this foundation great.

Now I would like to present the monthly activities briefly as follows:

January

January 1: Samuhik Rudrabhishek & Nava Graha Puja

- We organized a Samuhik Rudrabhishek & Nava Graha Puja on Monday, January 01. Shree Ishwar Krishna Maharaj was the special guest, and he narrated Musical Katha Satsang. There was enthusiastic participation of community members and devotees.
- On January 25, we organized a community Satsang in the house of Hem and Radha Thakulla in Pomona.
- Every Sunday is a special day for Bhajans and Satsang at our temple.

February

- On February 4, we organized an event titled “Yoga, Vedanta, and Satsang” with Acharya Lakshman Panthi
- On February 11, we organized a Saraswati Puja at our temple. Nepali Pathasala children learned about Saraswati and performed their talents.

March

- On March 8, we observed Maha Shivaratri. We held Maha Rudhravishek in the morning and evening in mass. The temple was open to the public all day, and there was a large gathering in the morning and evening shifts although it fell on a Friday. Puja ingredients were provided for free. A significant amount of donation was collected from Shivaratri event.
- On March 24, we organized a Holi Celebration at our temple. This event was especially meant for Nepali Pathasala children although our community members participated enthusiastically. As always, food was served.



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April

- On April 13, we organized a special Satyanarayan Puja, Bhajan and Satsang to observe Nepali New Year 2081 Bikram Sambat. It was an excellent event which was sponsored by Veda Bhakta Joshi.
- On April 14, we participated in Nepal Day Parade in San Francisco
- On April 17, we organized a special event to mark Ram Nawami and Basanta Navratri.
- On April 27, we organized a special Bhajan with Deepak Raman

May

- On May 18, a remarkable meet and greet with Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva was held at our temple. As the President, I gave a presentation on the growth and aspirations of the Nepalese Americans in Southern California. We also sought the state's financial support for the Foundation.
- On May 21, 2568th Buddha Jayanti program was organized. We brought together Nepalese Monk Puranjan Maharjan and four Bengali Monks, including Dr. Karunananda Thero, to celebrate this occasion. We also lit lamps for world peace.
- On May 26, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Nepal Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali visited our temple.

June

- On June 5, a special Satsang was organized with Guru Ramesh Nepal and Guru L. P. Bhanu Sharma, Founder of Jeevan Bigyan Nepal. There was enthusiastic participation of devotees.
- On June 21, we organized a Meditation, Yoga, and Kirtan event to mark International Yoga Day.

July

- **On July 7**, a special Satsang was organized at our temple with Dr. Patri Das. Trustees Kosh Raj Thapaliya and Sapana Sedhain Thapaliya sponsored the event.



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- **From JULY 9-14, we** hosted Nepali Consular Camp at our temple for the Embassy of Nepal in Washington DC. A total of 785 Nepalis received this service locally. We collected significant donations from this event.
- **On July 21,** a special Satsang was organized to observe Guru Purnima festival with Saadhvi Rammurti Mahatmaji and Saadhvi Gautami Mahatmaji.
- **On July 28, we held two events with Dr. Chintamani Nath Yogi.**
- One-Day Cultural Camp for children
 - Dr. Chintamani Nath Yogi ran the Spiritual and Cultural Camp through his inspirational talks and songs.
- Satsang with Dr. Chintamani Nath Yogi.
 - This event was organized at the temple in the evening.

August

- On August 19, Janai Purnima/Rakskya Bandhan was observed.
 - We initiated and added traditional ritual of this ceremony by performing Shrawani Mahasnan at Seal Beach California. Janai and Rakshya Bandhan were distributed as usual.
- On August 26, Shree Krishna Janmasthanami celebrations with special Puja, Bhajan and Satsang were organized
 - Praveen Ghimire and Roshani Dhungana sponsored Prasad. It was a grand celebration.

September

- Teej
- September 1: Teej Daar
- September 6: Teej Puja --held in four shifts. All four shifts were packed. There was significant enthusiasm and involvement of community members from various regions, especially new donors.
- September 8: Rishi Panchami Puja



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- We collected a significant amount of donations from daar sponsorship and Puja.
- September 30: Special Bhajan with singer Narandra Pyasi was organized.

October

- On October 5, we participated in Artesia International Street Fair and Diversity Festival.
- On October 6. Children's Grand Talent Show event was organized for Nepali Pathasala children. Special appreciation certificates were given. Veda Bhakta Joshi and Nepali Pathasala parents contributed for the event.
- From October 3-16, we celebrated Dashain.
 - As usual, there was a significant presence of community members during the 10-day celebration
 - JAMARA was distributed for free, but we encouraged community members to donate
 - About \$7000 was collected from Prasad sponsorship and Jamara distribution.

November

- Deusi-Bhailo: October 30 and November 1
 - This year's Deusi-Bhailo was held in two locations. We managed this year's Deusi-Bhailo a little differently. We brought together 16 Nepalese women entrepreneurs together and performed Deusi at our temple on November 1. Thank you to all women entrepreneurs who hosted Deusi-Bhailo at our temple. We are equally grateful to Yadav and Resu Chimouriya for hosting Deusi-Bhailo at their home in Baldwin Park on October 30. We managed to collect over \$50,000 cash including pledges. We are also grateful to Singer Krishna Devkota and other local artists for their volunteer cultural performance.



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- November 16: A Sound Meditation event was organized with the help of Deep Deoja and Archana Deoja from San Diego.
- November 24: Swojagaran Dhyan program was organized. Secretary Dilli Raj Silwal conducted the event. There was enthusiastic participation of community members from across various regions of Southern California.

December

- We organized a special donor appreciation program on Sunday, December 8, to recognize the contributions made to the Nepalese Cultural Center (NCC) project. We awarded the donors with plaques. There was an enthusiastic participation of donors, and we raised over \$100,000 in the course of this event.
- On December 21, we held a special event to mark the 1st International Meditation Day. The event was organized in association of Friends of Osho Nirvana San Diego. Veda Bhakta Joshi sponsored the event.

Thank you.

Rameshor Bhandari

President

Shree Pashupatinath Foundation, USA

December 22, 2024



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Financials presented treasurer Laxman Ghimire:



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Annual Treasurer Report 2024

Strengthening Financial Transparency & Stewardship

Presented by: Laxman Ghimire, CPA

12.22.2024

Summary: 2024

Revenue \$555,339	Expenses: \$157,899	Net Surplus \$397,440
Net Assets on 12/2023: \$2,290,474	Net Assets on 12/2024: 2,687,914	Cash & Equivalents: \$1,204,975

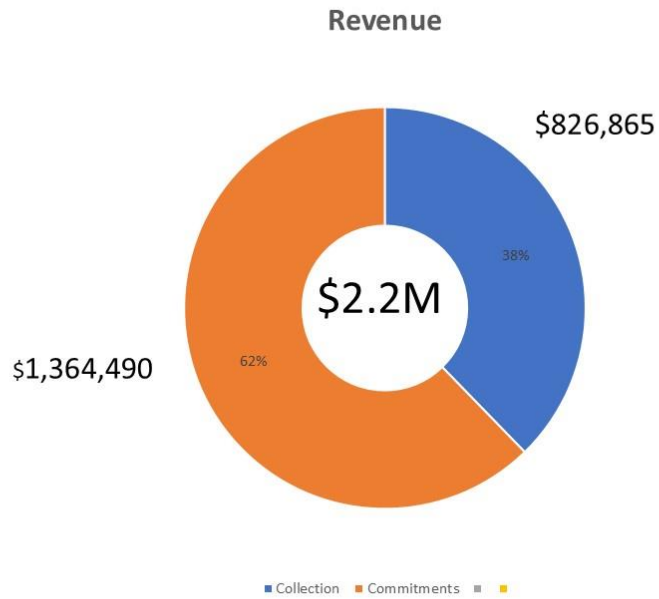


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Nepalese Cultural Center Fund

Join Us to Build a Nepalese Cultural Center – Preserve Our Culture, Heritage, Arts, and Language

Revenue:



Revenue:

NCC Contributions	\$327,953
Donations and Contributions	\$71,310
Event Revenues	\$72,824
Revenue from Services	\$28,474
Investment Income	\$31,395
Other Income	\$23,383
Total Revenue	\$555,339



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Revenue Details:

Event Revenues	
Buddha Jayanti	\$4,145.55
Dashain	\$6,040.00
Deusi Bhailo	\$13,445.22
LA Consular Service Camp Fund	\$11,738.56
Nepali Pathshala	\$10,665.09
Shivaratri Puja	\$15,018.10
Teej	\$4,164.00
Other	\$7,607.47
Event Revenues	\$72,823.99

Donations and Contributions	
Dollar a Day	14,923.00
Donation Box	41,097.50
Other	15,289.24
Donations and Contributions	71,309.74

Expenses:

Expenses:

Program Expenses	\$47,109
Administrative Expenses	\$54,994
Facility Expenses	\$55,796
Total Expenses	\$157,899



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Expenses Details:

<u>Facilities Expenses</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Insurance Liability	\$5,824.00
Janitorial Expenses	\$3,980.00
Gardening	\$3,000.00
Phone & Internet	\$2,219.07
Repairs & Maintenance	\$7,452.31
Security Expense	\$3,195.80
Small Tools and Equipment	\$2,396.35
Supplies Maintenance Facility	\$390.51
Taxes & Licenses	\$5,866.44
Utilities:Electricity	\$8,293.52
Utilities:Gas	\$4,092.67
Utilities:Trash	\$2,950.57
Utilities:Water	\$6,078.10
Total Facilities Expenses	\$55,739.34

<u>Administrative Expenses</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Accounting Fee	\$356.00
Bank Charges & Merchant Fees	\$3,533.88
Contractor Payments	\$2,384.00
Insurance Worker Comp	\$775.50
Membership and Dues	\$149.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$41.00
Payroll Expenses	\$41,520.00
Payroll Taxes	\$4,779.63
Permits and Licenses	\$449.21
Software Subscriptions	\$491.78
Supplies Office	\$582.19
Total Admin Expenses	\$55,062.19

<u>Program Expenses</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Payments for Services	\$7,792.40
Food and Beverages/Prasad	\$21,024.91
Gifts and Prizes	\$500.00
Printing & Publication	\$7,853.19
Program & Events	\$4,700.02
Supplies General	\$5,225.99
Total Program Expenses	47,096.51

A heartfelt thank you to all contributors for their invaluable support, which has been pivotal in advancing the organization's mission

Q&A



Facts about the Shree Pashupatinath Foundation, USA presented by Secretary Dilli (Siddhartha) Silwal:

- a. October 4, 2009; 14-member Committee was formed for Formation of the Foundation coordinated by Mr. Bhakta Thapa. December 12, 2009, First Board of the foundation was formed with 21 Members chaired by Mr. Bhakta Thapa and later expanded to 33 members which served the foundation for 5 long years.
- b. The First pledge received for the foundation \$ 53014 from Akaraj Pandey, Manita Basnet, Netra Mainali, Deepak Pathak, Prem Guragain, Bhakta Thapa, Punnakhar Dhakal “Rishi”, Madan Pathak, Mukunda Dhungana, Basudev Ghimire, Rajendra Siwakoti, Shiva Adhikari, Dil B Shrestha, Gokul Poudyal, and \$500 cash donation was received from the cultural performance by Nepali artist Om Bikram Bist.
- c. February 03, 2010, The Foundation was incorporated as Shree Pashupatinath foundation, USA and received Tax exempt status on May 10, 2010.
- d. The Satsang movement inspired by Dr. Chintamani Nath Yogi and Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapuran orated by Baachan Praveen Deen Bandhu Pokhrel on July 04-11, 2011, was a major milestone to raise funds of the foundation.
- e. November 16, 2012, Temple property was purchased at \$ 1,050,000 with down payment and closing cost of \$ 559, 416.63 and rest in loan guaranteed by Bhakta Thapa, Ram Lama, Rishi Dhakal and Akaraj Pandey.
- f. The foundation received a Conditional Use Permit on April 9, 2014, and major construction of the temple was complete at the end of 2017.
- g. A Grand Pran Pratistha Ceremony was held February 11, 12, 13, 2018 and Grand opening ceremony was held on March3, 2019.
- h. Bhakta Thapa was a longest serving President who served two terms 2009-14 and 2014-2018 totaling of 9 years and longest serving secretary Rameshor Bhandari 2014-18, and 2021-22 for total of 6 years.
- i. There are 1,432 plus donors who contributed amounts ranging from as little as 1 penny to as much as \$286,000.
- j. July 31, 2019, Mortgage loan was paid off.
- k. Shree Pashupatinath Foundation runs active Nepali Pathshala for kids and Sanskrit Pathshala for adults.



Membership Status as of 12/15/2024 (Total 1432)

- a. Currently the numbers of Board of Trustees are 86 (which includes 2 Platinum Patron, 9 Patrons and 75 Trustees)
- b. Currently Numbers of life Members are 240 (which includes 2 Platinum Patron, 9 Patrons, 75 Trustees and 154 life members)
- c. Currently There are 1192 General Members and Temple citizen Members combined.
- d. There are 7 Affiliate Members

*****End of Report*****